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THE
SEASONS.

BY
JAMES THOMSON.



LONDON:
Printed for A. MILLAR, in the Strand,
MDCCLVII.

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William Alexander M D

Dundee 2 June

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Will Alexander his book

No 99

SPRING.

VOL. I.

B

THE ARGUMENT.

The subject proposed. Inscribed to the Countess of HARTFORD. The Season is described as it affects the various parts of Nature, ascending from the lower to the higher; with digressions arising from the subject. Its influence on inanimate Matter, on Vegetables, on brute Animals, and last on Man; concluding with a dissuasive from the wild and irregular passion of Love, opposed to that of a pure and happy kind.

S P R I N G.

C OME, gentle SPRING, ethereal Mildness, come,
And from the bosom of yon dropping cloud,
While music wakes around veil'd in a shower
Of shadowing roses, on our plains descend.

O HARTFORD, fitted or to shine in courts 5
With unaffected grace, or walk the plain
With innocence and meditation join'd
In soft assemblage, listen to my song,
Which thy own Season paints; when Nature all
Is blooming and benevolent, like thee. 10

AND see where furly WINTER passes off,
Far to the north, and calls his ruffian blasts:
His blasts obey, and quit the howling hill,
The shatter'd forest, and the ravag'd vale;
While softer gales succeed, at whose kind touch, 15
Dissolving snows in livid torrents lost,
The mountains lift their green heads to the sky.

As yet the trembling year is unconfirm'd,
And WINTER oft at eve resumes the breeze,
Chills the pale morn, and bids his driving fleets 20

Deform the day delightful : so that scarce
 The bittern knows his time, with bill ingulph'd
 To shake the sounding marsh ; or from the shore
 The plovers when to scatter o'er the heath,
 And sing their wild notes to the listening waste. 25

At last from *Aries* rolls the bounteous sun,
 And the bright *Bull* receives him. Then no more
 Th' expansive atmosphere is cramp'd with cold ;
 But, full of life and vivifying soul,
 Lifts the light clouds sublime, and spreads them thin, 30
 Fleecy and white, o'er all-surrounding Heaven.

FORTH fly the tepid airs ; and unconfin'd,
 Unbinding earth, the moving softness strays.
 Joyous, th' impatient husbandman perceives
 Relenting Nature, and his lusty steers 35
 Drives from their stalls, to where the well-us'd plough
 Lies in the furrow, loosened from the frost.
 There, unrefusing to the harness'd yoke,
 They lend their shoulder, and begin their toil,
 Chear'd by the simple song and soaring lark. 40
 Meanwhile incumbent o'er the shining share
 The master leans, removes th' obstructing clay,
 Winds the whole work, and sidelong lays the glebe.

WHITE thro' the neighbouring fields the sower stalks,
 With measur'd step ; and liberal throws the grain 45
 Into the faithful bosom of the ground :
 The harrow follows harsh, and shuts the scene.

SPRING.

5

BE gracious, HEAVEN ! for now laborious Man
 Has done his part. Ye fostering breezes blow !
 Ye fostering dews, ye tender showers, descend ! 50
 And temper all, thou world-reviving sun,
 Into the perfect year ! Nor ye who live
 In luxury and ease, in pomp and pride,
 Think these lost themes unworthy of your ear :
 Such themes as these the *rural* MARO sung 55
 To wide-imperial *Rome*, in the full height
 Of elegance and taste, by *Greece* refin'd.
 In antient times, the sacred plough employ'd
 The kings, and awful fathers of mankind :
 And some, with whom compar'd your insect-tribes 60
 Are but the beings of a summer's day,
 Have held the scale of empire, rul'd the storm
 Of mighty war ; then, with victorious hand,
 Disdaining little delicacies, seiz'd
 The plough, and greatly independant scorn'd 65
 All the vile stores corruption can bestow.

YE generous BRITONS, venerate the plough !
 And o'er your hills, and long withdrawing vales,
 Let Autumn spread his treasures to the sun,
 Luxuriant and unbounded ! as the sea, 70
 Far thro' his azure turbulent domain,
 Your empire owns, and from a thousand shores
 Wafts all the pomp of life into your ports ;
 So with superior boon may your rich soil,
 Exuberant, Nature's better blessings pour 75

O'er every land, the naked nations cloathe,
And be th' exhaustless granary of a world !

Not only thro' the lenient air this change,
Delicious, breathes ; the penetrative sun,
His force deep-darting to the dark retreat 80
Of vegetation, sets the steaming power
At large, to wander o'er the vernant earth,
In various hues ; but chiefly thee, gay *Green* !
Thou smiling Nature's universal robe !
United light and shade ! where the light dwells 85
With growing strength, and ever-new delight.

From the moist meadow to the withered hill,
Led by the breeze, the vivid verdure runs,
And swells, and deepens, to the cherish'd eye.
The hawthorn whitens ; and the juicy groves 90
Put forth their buds, unfolding by degrees,
Till the whole leafy forest stands display'd,
In full luxuriance, to the sighing gales ;
Where the deer rustle thro' the twining brake,
And the birds sing conceal'd. At once, array'd 95
In all the colours of the flushing year,
By Nature's swift and secret-working hand,
The garden glows, and fills the liberal air
With lavish fragrance ; while the promis'd fruit
Lies yet a little embryo, unperceiv'd, 100
Within its crimson folds. Now from the town
Buried in smoke, and sleep, and noisom damps,
Of

S P R I N G.

7

Oft let me wander o'er the dewy fields,
 Where freshness breathes, and dash the trembling drops
 From the bent bush, as thro' the verdant maze 105
 Of sweet-briar hedges I pursue my walk;
 Or taste the smell of dairy; or ascend
 Some eminence, AUGUSTA, in thy plains,
 And see the country, far diffus'd around.
 One boundless blush, one white-empurpled shower 110
 Of mingled blossoms; where the raptur'd eye
 Hurries from joy to joy, and, hid beneath
 The fair profusion, yellow Autumn spies.

If, brush'd from *Russian* wilds, a cutting gale
 Rise not, and scatter from his humid wings 115
 The clammy mildew; or, dry-blowing, breathe
 Untimely frost; before whose baleful blast
 The full-blown spring thro' all her foliage shrinks,
 Joyless and dead, a wide-dejected waste.
 For oft, engender'd by the hazy north, 120
 Myriads on myriads, insect-armies waft
 Keen in the poison'd breeze; and wasteful eat,
 Thro' buds and bark, into the blackened core,
 Their eager way. A feeble race! yet oft
 The sacred sons of vengeance! on whose course 125
 Corrosive famine waits, and kills the year.
 To check this plague the skilful farmer chaff,
 And blazing straw, before his orchard burns;
 Till, all involv'd in smoke, the latent foe
 From every cranny suffocated falls: 130

Or scatters o'er the blooms the pungent dust
 Of pepper, fatal to the frosty tribe :
 Or, when th' envenom'd leaf begins to curl,
 With sprinkled water drowns them in their nest ;
 Nor, while they pick them up with busy bill, 135
 The little trooping birds unwisely scares.

BE patient, swains ; these cruel-seeming winds
 Blow not in vain. Far hence hey keep, repress'd,
 Those deepening clouds on clouds, furcharg'd with rain,
 That o'er the vast *Atlantic* hither borne, 140
 In endless train, would quench the summer-blaze,
 And, cheerless, drown the crude unripened year.

THE north-east spends his rage ; he now shut up
 Within his iron cave, th' effusive south
 Warms the wide air, and o'er the void of heaven 145
 Breathes the big clouds with vernal showers distent.
 At first a dusky wreath they seem to rise,
 Scarce staining ether ; but by fast degrees,
 In heaps on heaps, the doubling vapour fails
 Along the loaded sky, and mingling deep 150
 Sits on th' horizon round a settled gloom.
 Not such as wintry storms on mortals shed,
 Oppressing life ; but lovely, gentle, kind,
 And full of every hope and every joy,
 The wish of Nature. Gradual, sinks the breeze, 155
 Into a perfect calm ; that not a breath
 Is heard to quiver thro' the closing woods.

S P R I N G.

9

Or rustling turn the many-twinkling leaves
 Of aspin tall. Th' uncurling floods, diffus'd
 In glassy breadth, seem thro' delusive lapse 160
 Forgetful of their course. 'Tis silence all,
 And pleasing expectation. Herds and flocks
 Drop the dry sprig, and mute-imploing eye
 The falling verdure. Hush'd in short suspense,
 The plummy people streak their wings with oil, 165
 To throw the lucid moisture trickling off;
 And wait th' approaching sign to strike, at once,
 Into the general choir. Even mountains, vales,
 And forests seem, impatient, to demand
 The promis'd sweetness. Man superior walks 170
 Amid the glad creation, musing praise,
 And looking lively gratitude. At last,
 The clouds consign their treasures to the fields;
 And, softly shaking on the dimpled pool
 Prelusive drops, let all their moisture flow, 175
 In large effusion, o'er the freshened world.
 The stealing shower is scarce to patter heard,
 By such as wander thro' the forest-walks,
 Beneath th' umbrageous multitude of leaves.
 But who can hold the shade, while Heaven descends 180
 In universal bounty, shedding herbs,
 And fruits, and flowers, on Nature's ample lap?
 Swift fancy fir'd anticipates their growth;
 And, while the milky nutriment distils,
 Beholds the kindling country colour round. 185

Thus all day long the full-distended clouds
 Indulge their genial stores, and well-shower'd earth
 Is deep enrich'd with vegetable life ;
 Till, in the western sky, the downward sun
 Looks out, effulgent, from amid the flush 190
 Of broken clouds, gay-shifting to his beam.
 The rapid radiance instantaneous strikes
 Th' illumin'd mountain, thro' the forest streams,
 Shakes on the floods, and in a yellow mist,
 Far smoaking o'er th' interminable plain, 195
 In twinkling myriads lights the dewy gems.
 Moist, bright, and green, the landskip laughs around.
 Full swell the woods ; their every music wakes,
 Mix'd in wild concert with the warbling brooks
 Increas'd, the distant bleatings of the hills, 200
 The hollow lows responsive from the vales,
 Whence blending all the sweetened zephyr springs.
 Mean time refracted from yon eastern cloud,
 Bestriding earth, the grand ethereal bow
 Shoots up immense ; and every hue unfolds, 205
 In fair proportion running from the red,
 To where the violet fades into the sky.
 Here, awful NEWTON, the dissolving clouds
 Form, fronting on the sun, thy showry prison ;
 And to the sage-instructed eye unfold 210
 The various twine of light, by thee disclos'd
 From the white mingling maze. Not so the swain ;
 He wondering views the bright enchantment bend,
 De-

SPRING.

PI

Delightful, o'er the radiant fields, and runs
 To catch the falling glory ; but amaz'd 215
 Beholds th' amusive arch before him fly,
 Then vanish quite away. Still night succeeds,
 A softened shade, and saturated earth
 Awaits the morning-beam, to give to light,
 Rais'd thro' ten thousand different plastic tubes, 220
 The balmy treasures of the former day.

THEN spring the living herbs, profusely wild,
 O'er all the deep-green earth, beyond the power
 Of botanist to number up their tribes:
 Whether he steals along the lonely dale, 225
 In silent search ; or thro' the forest, rank
 With what the dull incurious weeds account,
 Bursts his blind way ; or climbs the mountain-rock,
 Fir'd by the nodding verdure of its brow.
 With such a liberal hand has Nature flung 230
 Their seeds abroad, blown them about in winds,
 Innumerable mix'd them with the nursing mold,
 The moistening current, and prolific rain.

BUT who their virtues can declare ? Who pierce,
 With vision pure, into these secret stores 235
 Of health, and life, and joy ? The food of Man,
 While yet he liv'd in innocence, and told
 A length of golden years ; unflafh'd in blood,
 A stranger to the savage arts of life,
 Death, rapine, carnage, surfeit, and disease ; 240
 B 6 The

The lord, and not the tyrant of the world.

THE first fresh dawn then wak'd the gladdened race
 Of uncorrupted Man, nor blush'd to see
 The sluggard sleep beneath its sacred beam :
 For their light slumbers gently fum'd away ; 245
 And up they rose as vigorous as the sun,
 Or to the culture of the willing glebe,
 Or to the chearful tendance of the flock.
 Meantime the song went round; and dance and sport,
 Wisdom and friendly talk, successive stole 250
 Their hours away. While in the rosy vale
 Love breath'd his infant sighs, from anguish free,
 And full replete with bliss ; save the sweet pain,
 That, inly thrilling, but exalts it more.
 Nor yet injurious act, nor surly deed, 255
 Was known among these happy sons of HEAVEN ;
 For reason and benevolence were law.
 Harmonious Nature too look'd smiling on.
 Clear shone the skies, cool'd with eternal gales,
 And balmy spirit all. The youthful sun 260
 Shot his best rays, and still the gracious clouds
 Drop'd fatness down ; as o'er the swelling mead,
 The herds and flocks, commixing, play'd secure.
 This when, emergent from the gloomy wood,
 The glaring lion saw, his horrid heart 265
 Was meekened, and he join'd his sullen joy.
 For music held the whole in perfect peace :
 Soft sigh'd the flute ; the tender voice was heard,
 War-

Warbling the varied heart ; the woodlands round
 Apply'd their quire ; and winds and waters flow'd 270
 In consonance. Such were those prime of days. .

BUT now those white unblemish'd minutes, whence
 The fabling poets took their golden age,
 Are found no more amid these iron times,
 These dregs of life ! Now the distemper'd mind 275
 Has lost that concord of harmonious powers,
 Which forms the soul of happiness ; and all
 Is off the poise within : the passions all
 Have burst their bounds ; and reason half extinct,
 Or impotent, or else approving, sees, 280
 The foul disorder. Senseless, and deform'd,
 Convulsive anger storms at large ; or pale,
 And silent, settles into fell revenge.
 Base envy withers at another's joy,
 And hates that excellence it cannot reach. 285
 Desponding fear, of feeble fancies full,
 Weak and unmanly, loosens every power.
 Even love itself is bitterness of soul,
 A pensive anguish pining at the heart ;
 Or, sunk to sordid interest, feels no more 290
 That noble wish, that never cloy'd desire,
 Which, selfish joy disdaining, seeks alone
 To bless the dearer object of its flame.
 Hope sickens with extravagance ; and grief,
 Of life impatient, into madness swells ; 295
 Or in dead silence wastes the weeping hours.

These,

These, and a thousand mix'd emotions more,
 From ever-changing views of good and ill,
 Form'd infinitely various, vex the mind
 With endless storm. Whence, deeply rankling, grows
 The partial thought, a listless unconcern, 301
 Cold, and averting from our neighbour's good;
 Then dark disgust, and hatred, winding wiles,
 Coward deceit, and ruffian violence:
 At last, extinct each social feeling, fell 305
 And joyless inhumanity pervades
 And petrifies the heart. Nature disturb'd
 Is deem'd, vindictive, to have chang'd her course.

HENCE, in old dusky time, a deluge came:
 When the deep-cleft disparting orb, that arch'd 310
 The central waters round, impetuous rush'd,
 With universal burst, into the gulph,
 And o'er the high-pil'd hills of fractur'd earth
 Wide-dash'd the waves, in undulation vast;
 Till, from the center to the streaming clouds, 315
 A shoreless ocean tumbled round the globe.

THE Seasons since have, with feverer sway,
 Oppress'd a broken world: the Winter keen
 Shook forth his waste of snows; and Summer shot
 His pestilential heats. Great Spring, before, 320
 Green'd all the year; and fruits and blossoms blush'd,
 In social sweetness, on the self-same bough.
 Pure was the temperate air; an even calm

Perpetual

S P R I N G.

15

Perpetual reign'd, save what the zephyrs bland
 Breath'd o'er the blue expanse: for then nor storms 325
 Were taught to blow, nor hurricanes to rage;
 Sound slept the waters; no sulphureous glooms
 Swell'd in the sky, and sent the lightning forth;
 While sickly damps, and cold autumnal fogs,
 Hung not, relaxing, on the springs of life. 330
 But now, of turbid elements the sport,
 From clear to cloudy tost, from hot to cold,
 And dry to moist, with inward-eating change,
 Our drooping days are dwindled down to nought,
 Their period finish'd ere 'tis well begun. 335

And yet the wholesome herb neglected dies;
 Tho' with the pure exhilarating soul
 Of nutriment and health, and vital powers,
 Beyond the search of art, 'tis copious blest.
 For, with hot ravine fir'd, ensanguin'd ~~man~~ 340
 Is now become the lion of the plain,
 And worse. The wolf, who from the nightly fold
 Fierce drags the bleating prey, ne'er drunk her milk,
 Nor wore her warming fleece: nor has the steer,
 At whose strong chest the deadly tyger hangs, 345
 E'er plow'd for him. They too are temper'd high,
 With hunger stung and wild necessity,
 Nor lodges pity in their shaggy breast.
 But *Man*, whom Nature form'd of milder clay,
 With every kind emotion in his heart, 350
 And

And taught alone to weep ; while from her lap
 She pours ten thousand delicacies, herbs,
 And fruits, as numerous as the drops of rain
 Or beams that gave them birth : shall he, fair form !
 Who wears sweet smiles, and looks erect on Heaven,
 E'er stoop to mingle with the prowling herd, 356
 And dip his tongue in gore ? The beast of prey,
 Blood-stain'd deserves to bleed : but you, ye flocks,
 What have you done ; ye peaceful people, what,
 To merit death ? you, who have given us milk 360
 In luscious streams, and lent us your own coat
 Against the winter's cold ? and the plain ox,
 That harmless, honest, guileless animal,
 In what has he offended ? He, whose toil,
 Patient and ever ready, clothes the land 365
 With all the pomp of harvest ; shall he bleed,
 And struggling groan beneath the cruel hands
 Even of the clown he feeds ? And that perhaps,
 To swell the riot of th' autumnal feast,
 Won by his labour ? Thus the feeling heart 370
 Would tenderly suggest : but 'tis enough,
 In this late age, adventurous, to have touch'd
 Light on the numbers of the *Samian* sage.
 High HEAVEN forbids the bold presumptuous strain,
 Whose wisest will has fix'd us in a state 375
 That must not yet to pure perfection rise.
 Besides, who knows, how *rais'd* to higher life,
 From stage to stage, the *vital scale ascends* ?

Now

Now when the first foul torrent of the brooks,
Swell'd with the vernal rains, is ebb'd away ; 380
And, whitening, down their mossy-tinctur'd stream
Descends the billowy foam : now is the time,
While yet the dark-brown water aids the guile,
To tempt the trout. The well-dissembled fly,
The rod fine-tapering with elastic spring, 385
Snatch'd from the hoary steed the floating line,
And all thy slender watry stores prepare.
But let not on thy hook the tortur'd worm,
Convulsive, twist in agonizing folds ;
Which, by rapacious hunger swallow'd deep, 390
Gives, as you tear it from the bleeding breast
Of the weak helpless uncomplaining wretch,
Harsh pain and horror to the tender hand.

WHEN with his lively ray the potent sun 394
Has pierc'd the streams, and rous'd the finny race,
Then, issuing chearful, to thy sport repair ;
Chief should the western breezes curling play,
And light o'er ether bear the shadowy clouds.
High to their fount, this day, amid the hills,
And woodlands warbling round, trace up the brooks ;
The next, pursue their rocky-channel'd maze, 401
Down to the river, in whose ample wave
Their little naiads love to sport at large.
Just in the dubious point, where with the pool
Is mix'd the trembling stream, or where it boils 405
Around

Around the stone, or from the hollow'd bank
 Reverted plays in undulating flow,
 There throw, nice-judging, the delusive fly;
 And as you lead it round in artful curve,
 With eye attentive mark the springing game. 410
 Strait as above the surface of the flood
 They wanton rise, or urg'd by hunger leap,
 Then fix, with gentle twich, the barbed hook:
 Some lightly tossing to the grassy bank,
 And to the shelving shore slow-dragging some, 415
 With various hand proportion'd to their force.
 If yet too young, and easily deceiv'd,
 A worthless prey scarce bends your pliant rod,
 Him, piteous of his youth and the short space
 He has enjoy'd the vital light of Heaven, 420
 Soft disengage, and back into the stream
 The speckled infant throw. But should you lure
 From his dark haunt, beneath the tangled roots
 Of pendant trees, the monarch of the brook,
 Behoves you then to ply your finest art. 425
 Long time he, following cautious, scans the fly;
 And oft attempts to seize it, but as oft
 The dimpled water speaks his jealous fear.
 At last, while haply o'er the shaded sun
 Passes a cloud, he desperate takes the death, 430
 With fullen plunge. At once he darts along,
 Deep-struck, and runs out all the lengthen'd line;
 Then seeks the farthest ooze, the sheltering weed,
 The cavern'd bank, his old secure abode;

And

S P R I N G.

19

And flies aloft, and flounces round the pool, 435
 Indignant of the guile. With yielding hand,
 That feels him still, yet to his furious course
 Gives way, you, now retiring, following now
 Across the stream, exhaust his idle rage :
 Till floating broad upon his breathless side, 440
 And to his fate abandon'd, to the shore
 You gayly drag your unresisting prize.

Thus pass the temperate hours : but when the sun
 Shakes from his noon-day throne the scattering clouds,
 Even shooting listless languor thro' the deeps ; 445
 Then seek the bank where flowering elders croud,
 Where scatter'd wild the lily of the vale
 Its balmy essence breathes, where cowslips hang
 The dewy head, where purple violets lurk,
 With all the lowly children of the shade : 450
 Or lie reclin'd beneath yon spreading ash,
 Hung o'er the steep ; whence, borne on liquid wing,
 The sounding culver shoots ; or where the hawk,
 High, in the beetling cliff, his airy builds.
 There let the classic page thy fancy lead 455
 Thro' rural scenes ; such as the *Mantuan* swain
 Paints in the matchless harmony of song.
 Or catch thy self the landskip, gliding swift
 Athwart imagination's vivid eye :
 Or by the vocal woods and waters lull'd, 460
 And lost in lonely musing, in a dream,
 Confus'd, of careless solitude, where mix

Ten

Ten thousand wandering images of things,
 Soothe every gust of passion into peace ;
 All but the swellings of the soften'd heart, 465
 That waken, not disturb the tranquil mind.

BEHOLD yon breathing prospect bids the Muse
 Throw all her beauty forth. But who can paint
 Like Nature ? Can imagination boast,
 Amid its gay creation, hues like hers ? 470
 Or can it mix them with that matchless skill,
 And lose them in each other, as appears
 In every bud that blows ? If fancy then
 Unequal fails beneath the pleasing task,
 Ah what shall language do ? Ah where find words
 Ting'd with so many colours ; and whose power, 476
 To life approaching, may perfume my lays
 With that fine oil, those aromatic gales,
 That inexhaustive flow continual round ?

YET, tho' successful, will the toil delight. 480
 Come then, ye virgins and ye youths, whose hearts
 Have felt the raptures of refining love ;
 And thou, AMANDA, come, pride of my song !
 Form'd by the graces, loveliness itself ! 484
 Come with those downcast eyes, sedate and sweet,
 These looks demure, that deeply pierce the soul,
 Where, with the light of thoughtful reason mix'd,
 Shines lively fancy and the feeling heart :
 Oh come ! and while the rosy-footed May

Steals

SPRING.

21

Steals blushing on, together let us tread 490
The morning-dews, and gather in their prime
Fresh-blooming flowers, to grace thy braided hair,
And thy lov'd bosom that improves their sweets.

SEE, where the winding vale its lavish stores,
Irriguous, spreads. See, how the lily drinks 495
The latent rill, scarce oozing thro' the grass,
Of growth luxuriant; or the humid bank,
In fair profusion, decks. Long let us walk,
Where the breeze blows from yon extended field
Of blossom'd beans. *Arabia* cannot boast 500
A fuller gale of joy than, liberal, thence
Breathes thro' the sense, and takes the ravish'd soul.
Nor is the mead unworthy of thy foot,
Full of fresh verdure, and unnumber'd flowers,
The negligence of *Nature*, wide, and wild; 505
Where, undisguis'd by mimic *Art*, she spreads
Unbounded beauty to the roving eye.
Here their delicious task the fervent bees,
In swarming millions, tend: around, athwart,
Thro' the soft air, the busy nations fly, 510
Cling to the bud, and, with inserted tube,
Suck its pure essence, its ethereal soul:
And oft with bolder wing, they soaring dare
The purple heath, or where the wild-thyme grows,
And yellow load them with the luscious spoil. 515

At

At length the finish'd garden to the view
 Its vistas opens, and its alleys green.
 Snatch'd thro' the verdant maze, the hurried eye
 Distracted wanders ; now the bowery walk
 Of covert close, where scarce a speck of day 520
 Falls on the lengthen'd gloom, protracted sweeps :
 Now meets the bending sky : the river now
 Dimpling along, the breezy-ruffled lake,
 The forest darkening round, the glittering spire,
 Th' ethereal mountain, and the distant main. 525
 But why so far excursive ? when at hand,
 Along these blushing borders, bright with dew,
 And in yon mingled wilderness of flowers,
 Fair-handed Spring unbosoms every grace ;
 Throws out the snow-drop, and the crocus first ;
 The daisy, primrose, violet darkly blue, 531
 And polyanthus of unnumber'd dyes ;
 The yellow wall-flower, stain'd with iron brown ;
 And lavish stock that scents the garden round.
 From the soft wing of vernal breezes shed, 535
 Anemonies ; auriculas, enrich'd
 With shining meal o'er all their velvet leaves ;
 And full ranunculas, of glowing red.
 Then comes the tulip-race, where Beauty plays
 Her idle freaks : from family diffus'd 540
 To family, as flies the father-dust,
 The varied colours run ; and, while they *break*
 On the charm'd eye, th' exulting florist marks,
 With

S P R I N G.

23

With secret pride, the wonders of his hand.
 No gradual bloom is wanting ; from the bud, 545
 First-born of Spring, to Summer's musky tribes :
 Nor hyacinths, of purest virgin white,
 Low-bent, and blushing inward ; nor jonquils,
 Of potent fragrance ; nor Narcissus fair,
 As o'er the fabled fountain hanging still ; 550
 Nor broad carnations ; nor gay-spotted pinks ;
 Nor, shower'd from every bush, the damask-rose.
 Infinite numbers, delicacies, smells,
 With hues on hues expression cannot paint,
 The breath of Nature, and her endless bloom. 555

HAIL, SOURCE OF BEING ! UNIVERSAL SOUL
 Of Heaven and earth ! ESSENTIAL PRESENCE, hail !
 To THEE I bend the knee ; to THEE my thoughts,
 Continual, climb ; who, with a master-hand,
 Hast the great whole into perfection touch'd. 560
 By THEE the various vegetative tribes,
 Wrapt in a filmy net, and clad with leaves,
 Draw the live ether, and imbibe the dew :
 By THEE dispos'd into congenial soils, 564
 Stands each attractive plant, and sucks, and swells
 The juicy tide ; a twining mass of tubes.
 At THY command the vernal sun awakes
 The torpid sap, detruded to the root
 By wintry winds ; that now in fluent dance,
 And lively fermentation, mounting, spreads 570
 All this innumerable-colour'd scene of things.

A3

As rising from the vegetable world
 My theme ascends, with equal wing ascend,
 My panting Muse ; and hark, how loud the woods
 Invite you forth in all your gayest trim. 575
 Lend me your song, ye nightingales ! oh pour
 The mazy-running soul of melody
 Into my varied verse ! while I deduce,
 From the first note the hollow cuckoo sings,
 The symphony of Spring, and touch a theme 580
 Unknown to fame, *the Passion of the groves.*

WHEN first the soul of love is sent abroad,
 Warm thro' the vital air, and on the heart
 Harmonious seizes, the gay troops begin,
 In gallant thought, to plume the painted wing ; 585
 And try again the long-forgotten strain,
 At first faint-warbled. But no sooner grows
 The soft infusion prevalent, and wide,
 Than, all alive, at once their joy o'erflows
 In music unconfin'd. Up-springs the lark, 590
 Shrill voic'd, and loud, the messenger of morn ;
 Ere yet the shadows fly, he mounted sings
 Amid the dawning clouds, and from their haunts
 Calls up the tuneful nations. Every copse
 Deep-tangled, tree irregular, and bush 595
 Bending with dewy moisture, o'er the heads
 Of the coy quirksters that lodge within,
 Are prodigal of harmony. The thrush

And

S P R I N G.

25

And wood-lark, o'er the kind contending throng
 Superior heard, run thro' the sweetest length . 600
 Of notes ; when listening *Philomela* deigns
 To let them joy, and purposes, in thought
 Elate, to make her night excel their day.
 The black-bird whistles from the thorny brake ;
 The mellow bullfinch answers from the grove : 605
 Nor are the linnets, o'er the flowering furze
 Pour'd out profusely, silent. Join'd to these
 Innumerable songsters, in the freshening shade
 Of new-sprung leaves, their modulations mix
 Mellifluous. The jay, the rook, the daw, 610
 And each harsh pipe discordant heard alone,
 Aid the full concert : while the stock-dove breathes
 A melancholy murmur thro' the whole.

'Tis love creates their melody, and all
 This waste of music is the voice of love ; 615
 That even to birds, and beasts, the tender arts
 Of pleasing teaches. Hence the glossy kind
 Try every winning way inventive love
 Can dictate, and in courtship to their mates
 Pour forth their little souls. First, wide around, 620
 With distant awe, in airy rings they rove,
 Endeavouring by a thousand tricks to catch
 The cunning, conscious, half-averted glance
 Of their regardless charmer. Should she seem
 Softening the least approbance to bestow, 625

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Their

Their colours burnish, and by hope inspir'd,
 They brisk advance ; then, on a sudden struck,
 Retire disorder'd ; then again approach ;
 In fond rotation spread the spotted wing,
 And shiver every feather with desire.

630

CONNUBIAL leagues agreed, to the deep woods
 They haste away, all as their fancy leads,
 Pleasure, or food, or secret safety prompts ;
 That NATURE'S *great command* may be obey'd :

Nor all the sweet sensations they perceive

635

Indulg'd in vain. Some to the holly-hedge

Nestling repair, and to the thicket some ;

Some to the rude protection of the thorn

Commit their feeble offspring : The cleft tree

Offers its kind concealment to a few,

640

Their food its insects, and its moss their nests.

Others apart far in the grassy dale,

Or roughening waste, their humble texture weave.

But most in woodland solitudes delight,

In unfrequented glooms, or shaggy banks,

645

Steep, and divided by a babbling brook,

Whose murmurs soothe them all the live-long day,

When by kind duty fix'd. Among the roots

Of hazel, pendant o'er the plaintive stream,

They frame the first foundation of their domes ;

650

Dry sprigs of trees, in artful fabric laid,

And bound with clay together. Now 'tis nought

But

S P R I N G.

27

But restless hurry thro' the busy air,
 Beat by unnumber'd wings. The swallow sweeps
 The slimy pool, to build his hanging house 655
 Intent. And often, from the careless back
 Of herds and flocks, a thousand tugging bills
 Pluck hair and wool; and oft, when unobserv'd,
 Steal from the barn a straw : till soft and warm,
 Clean, and compleat, their habitation grows. 660

As thus the patient dam assiduous sits,
 Not to be tempted from her tender task,
 Or by sharp hunger, or by smooth delight,
 Tho' the whole loosen'd Spring around her blows,
 Her sympathizing lover takes his stand 665
 High on th' opponent bank, and ceaseless sings
 The tedious time away ; or else supplies
 Her place a moment, while she sudden flits
 'To pick the scanty meal. Th' appointed time
 With pious toil fulfill'd, the callow young, 670
 Warm'd and expanded into perfect life,
 Their brittle bondage break, and come to light,
 A helpless family, demanding food
 With constant clamour : O what passions then,
 What melting sentiments of kindly care, 675
 On the new parents seize ! Away they fly
 Affectionate, and undesiring bear
 The most delicious morsel to their young ;
 Which equally distributed, again

The search begins. Even so a gentle pair, 680
 By fortune funk, but form'd of generous mold,
 And charm'd with cares beyond the vulgar breast,
 In some lone cott amid the distant woods,
 Sustain'd alone by providential HEAVEN,
 Oft, as they weeping eye their infant train, 685
 Check their own appetites and give them all.

NOR toil alone they scorn : exalting love,
 By the great FATHER OF THE SPRING inspir'd,
 Gives instant courage to the *fearful* race,
 And to the *simple* art. With stealthy wing, 690
 Should some rude foot their woody haunts molest,
 Amid a neighbouring bush they silent drop,
 And whirring thence, as if alarm'd, deceive
 Th' unfeeling school-boy. Hence, around the head
 Of wandering swain, the white-wing'd plover wheels
 Her sounding flight, and then directly on 696
 In long excursion skims the level lawn,
 To tempt him from her nest. The wild-duck, hence,
 O'er the rough moss, and o'er the trackless waste
 The heath-hen flutters, (pious fraud !) to lead 700
 The hot pursuing spaniel far astray.

Be not the Muse asham'd, here to bemoan
 Her brothers of the grove, by tyrant Man
 Inhuman caught, and in the narrow cage
 From liberty confin'd, and boundless air.

705
 Dull

Dull are the pretty slaves, their plumage dull,
 Ragged, and all its brightening lustre lost;
 Nor is that sprightly wildness in their notes,
 Which, clear and vigorous, warbles from the beech.
 Oh then, ye friends of love and love-taught song, 710
 Spare the soft tribes, this barbarous art forbear;
 If on your bosom innocence can win,
 Music engage, or piety persuade.

BUT let not chief the nightingale lament
 Her ruin'd care, too delicately fram'd 715
 To brook the harsh confinement of the cage.
 Oft when, returning with her loaded bill,
 Th' astonish'd mother finds a vacant nest,
 By the hard hand of unrelenting clowns
 Robb'd, to the ground the vain provision falls; 720
 Her pinions ruffle, and low, drooping scarce
 Can bear the mourner to the poplar shade;
 Where, all abandon'd to despair, she sings
 Her sorrows thro' the night; and, on the bough,
 Sole-sitting, still at every dying fall 725
 Takes up again her lamentable strain
 Of winding woe; till wide around the woods
 Sigh to her song, and with her wail resound.

BUT now the feather'd youth their former bounds,
 Ardent, disdain; and, weighing oft their wings, 730
 Demand the free possession of the sky:

This one glad office more, and then dissolves
 Parental love at once, now needless grown.
 Unlavish *Wisdom*, never works in vain.
 'Tis on some evening, sunny, grateful, mild, 735
 When nought but balm is breathing thro' the woods,
 With yellow lustre bright, that the new tribes
 Visit the spacious heavens, and look abroad
 On Nature's common, far as they can see, 739
 Or wing, their range, and pasture. O'er the boughs
 Dancing about, still at the giddy verge
 Their resolution fails; their pinions still,
 In loose libration stretch'd, to trust the void
 Trembling refuse: till down before them fly 744
 The parent-guides, and chide, exhort, command,
 Or push them off. The surging air receives
 The plummy burden; and their self-taught wings
 Winnow the waving element. On ground
 Alighted, bolder up again they lead,
 Farther and farther on, the lengthening flight; 750
 Till vanish'd every fear, and every power
 Rouz'd into life and action, light in air
 Th' acquitted parents see their soaring race,
 And once rejoicing never know them more.

HIGH from the summit of a craggy cliff, 755
 Hung o'er the deep, such as amazing frowns
 On utmost **Kilda's* shore, whose lonely race

* The farthest of the western islands in *Scotland*.

S P R I N G.

31

Resign the setting sun to *Indian* worlds,
 The royal eagle draws his vigorous young,
 Strong-pounc'd, and ardent with paternal fire. 760
 Now fit to raise a kingdom of their own,
 He drives them from his fort, the towering seat,
 For ages, of his empire ; which, in peace,
 Unstain'd he holds, while many a league to sea
 He wings his course, and preys in distant isles. 765

SHOULD I my steps turn to the rural seat,
 Whose lofty elms, and venerable oaks,
 Invite the rook, who high amid the boughs,
 In early Spring, his airy city builds,
 And ceaseless caws amusive ; there, well-pleas'd,
 I might the various polity survey 770
 Of the mixt household-kind. The careful hen
 Calls all her chirping family around,
 Fed and defended by the fearless cock ;
 Whose breast with ardour flames, as on he walks,
 Graceful, and crows defiance. In the pond, 776
 The finely-checker'd duck, before her train,
 Rows garrulous. The stately-sailing swan
 Gives out his snowy plumage to the gale ;
 And, arching proud his neck, with oary feet 780
 Bears forward fierce, and guards his osier-isle,
 Protective of his young. The turkey nigh,
 Loud-threatning, reddens ; while the peacock spreads
 His every-colour'd glory to the sun,

And swims in radiant majesty along. 785
 O'er the whole homely scene, the cooing dove
 Flies thick in amorous chace, and wanton rolls
 The glancing eye, and turns the changeful neck.

WHILE thus the gentle tenants of the shade
 Indulge their purer loves, the rougher world 790
 Of brutes, below, rush furious into flame,
 And fierce desire. Thro' all his lusty veins
 The bull, deep-scorch'd, the raging passion feels.
 Of pasture sick, and negligent of food,
 Scarce seen, he wades among the yellow broom, 795
 While o'er his ample sides the rambling sprays
 Luxuriant shoot; or thro' the mazy wood
 Dejected wanders, nor th' enticing bud
 Crops, tho' it presses on his careless sense.
 And oft, in jealous madning fancy wrapt, 800
 He seeks the fight; and, idly-butting, feigns
 His rival gor'd in every knotty trunk.
 Him should he meet, the bellowing war begins :
 Their eyes flash fury; to the hollow'd earth,
 Whence the sand flies, they mutter bloody deeds,
 And groaning deep th' impetuous battle mix : 806
 While the fair heifer, balmy-breathing, near,
 Stands kindling up their rage. The trembling steed,
 With this hot impulse seiz'd in every nerve,
 Nor hears the rein, nor heeds the sounding thong ;
 Blows are not felt; but tossing high his head, 811
 And

And by the well-known joy to distant plains
 Attracted strong, all wild he bursts away ;
 O'er rocks, and woods, and craggy mountains flies ;
 And, neighing, on the aerial summit takes 815
 Th' exciting gale ; then, steep-descending, cleaves
 The headlong torrents foaming down the hills,
 Even where the madness of the straiten'd stream
 Turns in black eddies round : such is the force
 With which his frantic heart and sinews swell. 820

Nor undelighted by the boundless spring
 Are the broad monsters of the foaming deep :
 From the deep ooze and gelid cavern rous'd,
 They flounce and tumble in unwieldy joy.
 Dire were the strain, and dissonant, to sing 825
 The cruel raptures of the savage kind :
 How by this flame their native wrath sublim'd,
 They roam, amid the fury of their heart,
 The far-resounding waste in fiercer bands,
 And growl their horrid loves. But this the theme
 I sing, enraptur'd, to the BRITISH FAIR, 831
 Forbids, and leads me to the mountain-brow,
 Where sits the shepherd on the grassy turf,
 Inhaling, healthful, the descending fun.
 Around him feeds his many-bleating flock, 835
 Of various cadence ; and his sportive lambs,
 This way and that convolv'd, in friskful glee,
 Their frolics play. And now the sprightly race

Invites them forth ; when swift, the signal given,
 They start away, and sweep the massy mound 840
 That runs around the hill ; the rampart once
 Of iron war, in ancient barbarous times,
 When disunited BRITAIN ever bled,
 Lost in eternal broil : ere yet she grew
 To this deep-laid indissoluble state, 845
 Where *Wealth* and *Commerce* lift the golden head ;
 And, o'er our labours, *Liberty* and *Law*,
 Impartial, watch ; the wonder of a world !

WHAT is this *mighty Breath*, ye curious, say,
 That, in a powerful language, felt not heard, 850
 Instructs the fowls of heaven ; and thro' their breast
 These arts of love diffuses ? What, but GOD ?
 Inspiring GOD ! who boundless Spirit all,
 And unremitting Energy, pervades,
 Adjusts, sustains, and agitates the whole. 855
 He ceaseless works *alone* ; and yet *alone*
 Seems not to work : with such perfection fram'd
 Is this complex stupendous scheme of things.
 But, tho' conceal'd, to every purer eye
 Th' informing Author in his works appears : 860
 Chief, lovely Spring, in thee, and thy soft scenes,
 The SMILING GOD is seen ; while water, earth,
 And air attest his bounty ; which exalts
 The brute-creation to this finer thought,
 And annual melts their undesigning hearts 865
 Profusely thus in tenderness and joy.

STILL

STILL let my song a nobler note assume,
 And sing th' infusive force of Spring on Man ;
 When heaven and earth, as if contending, vye
 To raise his being, and serene his soul. 870
 Can he forbear to join the general smile
 Of Nature ? Can fierce passions vex his breast,
 While every gale is peace, and every grove
 Is melody ? Hence ! from the bounteous walks
 Of flowing Spring, ye fordid sons of earth, 875
 Hard, and unfeeling of another's woe ;
 Or only lavish to yourselves ; away !
 But come, ye generous minds, in whose wide thought,
 Of all his works, CREATIVE BOUNTY burns
 With warmest beam ; and on your open front 880
 And liberal eye, sits, from his dark retreat
 Inviting modest Want. Nor, till invoc'd,
 Can restless goodness wait ; your active search
 Leaves no cold wintry corner unexplor'd ;
 Like silent-working HEAVEN, surprizing oft. 885
 The lonely heart with unexpected good.
 For you the roving spirit of the wind
 Blows Spring abroad ; for you the teeming clouds
 Descend in gladsome plenty o'er the world ;
 And the sun sheds his kindest rays for you, 890
 Ye flower of human race !—In these green days,
 Reviving Sicknefs lifts her languid head ;
 Life flows afresh ; and young-ey'd Health exalts

The whole creation round. Contentment walks
 The sunny glade, and feels an inward bliss 895
 Spring o'er his mind, beyond the power of kings
 To purchase. Pure Serenity apace
 Induces thought, and Contemplation still.
 By swift degrees the love of Nature works,
 And warms the bosom ; till at last sublim'd 900
 To rapture, and enthusiastic heat,
 We feel the present DEITY, and taste
 The joy of God to see a happy world !

THESE are the sacred feelings of thy heart,
 Thy heart inform'd by reason's purer ray, 905
 O LYTTTELTON, the friend ! thy passions thus
 And meditations vary, as at large,
 Courting the Muse, thro' *Hagley-Park* thou strayest ;
 Thy *British Tempe* ! There along the dale,
 With woods o'er-hung, and shag'd with mossy rocks,
 Whence on each hand the gushing waters play, 911
 And down the rough cascade white-dashing fall,
 Or gleam in lengthen'd vista thro' the trees,
 You silent steal ; or sit beneath the shade
 Of solemn oaks, that tuft the swelling mounts 915
 Thrown graceful round by Nature's careless hand,
 And pensive listen to the various voice
 Of rural peace : the herds, the flocks, the birds,
 The hollow-whispering breeze, the plaint of rills,
 That, purling down amid the twisted roots 920
 Which

S P R I N G.

37

Which creep around, their dewy murmurs shake
 On the sooth'd ear. From these abstracted oft,
 You wander thro' the philosophic world ;
 Where in bright train continual wonders rise,
 Or to the curious or the pious eye. 925
 And oft, conducted by historic truth,
 You tread the long extent of backward time :
 Planning, with warm benevolence of mind,
 And honest zeal unwarp'd by party-rage,
 BRITANNIA'S weal ; how from the venal gulph 930
 To raise her virtue, and her arts revive.
 Or, turning thence thy view, these graver thoughts
 The Muses charm : while, with sure taste refin'd,
 You draw th' inspiring breath of ancient song ;
 Till nobly rises, emulous, thy own. 935
 Perhaps thy lov'd LUCINDA shares thy walk,
 With soul to thine attun'd. Then Nature all
 Wears to the lover's eye a look of love ;
 And all the tumult of a guilty world,
 Tost by ungenerous passions, sinks away. 940
 The tender heart is animated peace ;
 And as it pours its copious treasures forth,
 In varied converse, softening every theme,
 You, frequent-pausing, turn, and from her eyes,
 Where meeken'd sense, and amiable grace, 945
 And lively sweetness dwell, enraptur'd, drink
 That nameless spirit of ethereal joy,
 Inimitable happiness ! which love,

Alone,

Alone, bestows, and on a *favour'd* few.

Meantime you gain the height, from whose fair brow
The bursting prospect spreads immense around : 951

And snatch'd o'er hill and dale, and wood and lawn,
And verdant field, and darkening heath between,
And villages embosom'd soft in trees,
And spiry towns by surging-columns mark'd 955

Of household smoak, your eye excursive roams :
Wide-stretching from the *Hall*, in whose kind haunt
The *Hospitable Genius* lingers still,
To where the broken landskip, by degrees,
Ascending, roughens into rigid hills ; 960
O'er which the *Cambrian* mountains, like far clouds
That skirt the blue horizon, dusky rise.

FLUSH'D by the spirit of the genial year,
Now from the virgin's cheek a fresher bloom
Shoots, less and less, the live carnation round ; 965
Her lips blush deeper sweets ; she breathes of youth :
The shining moisture swells into her eyes,
In brighter flow ; her wishing bosom heaves,
With palpitations wild ; kind tumults seize
Her veins, and all her yielding soul is love. 970
From the keen gaze her lover turns away,
Full of the dear extatic power, and sick
With sighing languishment. Ah then, ye fair !
Be greatly cautious of your sliding hearts :
Dare not th' infectious sigh ; the pleading look, 975
Down-

SPRING.

39

Down-cast, and low, in meek submission drest,
But full of guile. Let not the fervent tongue,
Prompt to deceive, with adulation smooth,
Gain on your purpos'd will. Nor in the bower,
Where woodbines flaunt, and roses shed a couch, 980
While Evening draws her crimson curtains round,
Trust your soft minutes with betraying Man.

And let th' aspiring youth beware of love,
Of the smooth glance beware; for 'tis too late,
When on his heart the torrent-softness pours. 985
Then wisdom prostrate lies, and fading fame
Dissolves in air away; while the fond soul,
Wrapt in gay visions of unreal bliss,
Still paints th' illusive form; the kindling grace;
Th' inticing smile; the modest-seeming eye, 990
Beneath whose beauteous beams, belying heaven,
Lurk searchless cunning, cruelty, and death:
And still, false-warbling in his cheated ear,
Her syren voice, enchanting, draws him on
To guileful shores, and meads of fatal joy. 995

Even present, in the very lap of love
Inglorious laid; while music flows around,
Perfumes, and oils, and wine, and wanton hours;
Amid the roses fierce Repentance rears
Her snaky crest: a quick-returning pang 1000
Shoots thro' the conscious heart; where honour still,
And

And great design, against th' oppressive load
Of luxury, by fits, impatient heave.

BUT absent, what fantastic woes, arrous'd,
Rage in each thought, by restless musing fed, 1005
Chill the warm cheek, and blast the bloom of life?
Neglected fortune flies; and sliding swift,
Prone into ruin, fall his scorn'd affairs.
'Tis nought but gloom around: The darken'd sun
Loses his light. The rosy-bosom'd Spring 1010
To weeping Fancy pines; and yon bright arch,
Contracted, bends into a dusky vault.
All Nature fades extinct; and she alone
Heard, felt, and seen, possesses every thought,
Fills every sense, and pants in every vein. 1015
Books are but formal dulness, tedious friends;
And sad amid the social band he sits,
Lonely, and unattentive. From the tongue
Th' unfinish'd period falls: while borne away,
On swelling thought, his wasted spirit flies 1020
To the vain bosom of his distant fair;
And leaves the semblance of a lover, fix'd
In melancholy site, with head declin'd,
And love-dejected eyes. Sudden he starts,
Shook from his tender trance, and restless runs 1025
To glimmering shades, and sympathetic glooms;
Where the dun umbrage o'er the falling stream,
Romantic, hangs; there thro' the pensive dusk
Strays,

SPRING.

41

Strays, in heart-thrilling meditation lost,
 Indulging all to love : or on the bank 1030
 Thrown, amid drooping lilies, swells the breeze
 With sighs unceasing, and the brook with tears.
 Thus in soft anguish he consumes the day,
 Nor quits his deep retirement, till the Moon
 Peeps thro' the chambers of the fleecy east, 1035
 Enlighten'd by degrees, and in her train
 Leads on the gentle hours ; then forth he walks,
 Beneath the trembling languish of her beam,
 With soften'd soul, and woos the bird of eve
 To mingle woes with his : or while the world 1040
 And all the sons of Care lie hush'd in sleep,
 Associates with the midnight shadows drear ;
 And, sighing to the lonely taper, pours
 His idly-tortur'd heart into the page,
 Meant for the moving messenger of love ; 1045
 Where rapture burns on rapture, every line
 With rising frenzy fir'd. But if on bed
 Delirious flung, sleep from his pillow flies.
 All night he tosses, nor the balmy power
 In any posture finds ; till the grey morn 1050
 Lifts her pale lustre on the paler wretch,
 Exanimate by love : and then perhaps
 Exhausted Nature sinks a while to rest,
 Still interrupted by distracted dreams,
 That o'er the sick imagination rise, 1055
 And in black colours paint the mimic scene.

Of

Oft with th' enchantress of his soul he talks ;
 Sometimes in crouds distress'd ; or if retir'd
 To secret-winding flower-enwoven bowers,
 Far from the dull impertinence of man, 1060
 Just as he, credulous, his endless cares
 Begins to lose in blind oblivious love,
 Snatch'd from her yielded hand, he knows not how,
 Thro' forests huge, and long untravel'd heaths
 With desolation brown, he wanders waste, 1065
 In night and tempest wrapt ; or shrinks aghast,
 Back, from the bending precipice ; or wades
 The turbid stream below, and strives to reach
 The farther shore ; where succourless, and sad,
 She with extended arms his aid implores ; 1070
 But strives in vain : borne by th' outrageous flood
 To distance down, he rides the ridgy wave,
 Or whelm'd beneath the boiling eddy sinks.
 'These are the charming agonies of love,
 Whose misery delights. But thro' the heart 1075
 Should jealousy its venom once diffuse,
 'Tis then delightful misery no more,
 But agony unmix'd, incessant gall,
 Corroding every thought, and blasting all
 Love's paradise. Ye fairy prospects, then, 1080
 Ye beds of roses, and ye bowers of joy,
 Farewel ! Ye gleamings of departed peace,
 Shine out your last ! the yellow-tinging plague
 Internal vision taints, and in a night

Of

S P R I N G.

43

Of livid gloom imagination wraps. 1085
 Ah then ! instead of love-enliven'd cheeks,
 Of sunny features, and of ardent eyes
 With flowing rapture bright, dark looks succeed ;
 Suffus'd, and glaring with untender fire ;
 A clouded aspect, and a burning cheek, 1090
 Where the whole poison'd soul, malignant, sits,
 And frightens love away. Ten thousand fears
 Invented wild, ten thousand frantic views
 Of horrid rivals, hanging on the charms
 For which he melts in fondness, eat him up 1095
 With fervent anguish, and consuming rage.
 In vain reproaches lend their idle aid,
 Deceitful pride, and resolution frail,
 Giving false peace a moment. Fancy pours,
 Afresh, her beauties on his busy thought, 1100
 Her first endearments, twining round the soul,
 With all the witchcraft of ensnaring love.
 Strait the fierce storm involves his mind anew,
 Flames thro' the nerves, and boils along the veins ;
 While anxious doubt distracts the tortur'd heart :
 For even the sad assurance of his fears 1106
 Were peace to what he feels. Thus the warm youth,
 Whom love deludes into his thorny wilds,
 Thro' flowery-tempting paths, or leads a life
 Of fever'd rapture, or of cruel care ; 1110
 His brightest aims extinguish'd all, and all
 His lively moments running down to waste.

BUT

But happy they ! the happiest of their kind !
 Whom gentler stars unite, and in one fate
 Their hearts, their fortunes, and their beings blend.
 'Tis not the coarser tie of human laws, 1116
 Unnatural oft, and foreign to the mind,
 That binds their peace, but harmony itself,
 Attuning all their passions into love ;
 Where friendship full-exerts her softest power, 1120
 Perfect esteem enliven'd by desire
 Ineffable, and sympathy of soul ;
 Thought meeting thought, and will preventing will,
 With boundless confidence : for nought but love
 Can answer love, and render bliss secure. 1125
 Let him, ungenerous, who, alone intent
 To bless himself, from sordid parents buys
 The loathing virgin, in eternal care,
 Well-merited, consume his nights and days :
 Let barbarous nations, whose inhuman love 1130
 Is wild desire, fierce as the suns they feel ;
 Let eastern tyrants from the light of Heaven
 Seclude their bosom-slaves, meanly possess'd
 Of a meer, lifeless, violated form :
 While those whom love cements in holy faith, 1135
 And equal transport, free as nature live,
 Disdaining fear. What is the world to them,
 Its pomp, its pleasure, and its nonsense all !
 Who in each other clasp whatever fair.

High

S P R I N G.

45

High fancy forms, and lavish hearts can wish; 1140

Something than beauty dearer, should they look

Or on the mind, or mind-illumin'd face;

Truth, goodness, honour, harmony and love,

The richest bounty of indulgent HEAVEN.

Mean-time a smiling offspring rises round, 1145

And mingles both their graces. By degrees,

The human blossom blows; and every day,

Soft as it rolls along, shews some new charm,

The father's lustre, and the mother's bloom.

Then infant reason grows apace, and calls 1150

For the kind hand of an assiduous care.

Delightful task! to rear the tender thought,

To teach the young idea how to shoot,

To pour the fresh instruction o'er the mind,

To breathe th' enlivening spirit, and to fix 1155

The generous purpose in the glowing breast.

Oh speak the joy! ye, whom the sudden tear

Surprizes often, while you look around,

And nothing strikes your eye but sights of bliss,

All various Nature pressing on the heart: 1160

An elegant sufficiency, content,

Retirement, rural quiet, friendship, books,

Ease and alternate labour, useful life,

Progressive virtue, and approving HEAVEN.

These are the matchless joys of virtuous love; 1165

And thus their moments fly. The Seasons thus,

As ceaseless round a jarring world they roll,

Still

Still find them happy; and consenting SPRING
Sheds her own rosy garland on their heads :
Till evening comes at last, serene and mild ; 1170
When after the long vernal day of life,
Enamour'd more, as more remembrance swells
With many a proof of recollected love,
Together down they sink in social sleep ;
Together freed, their gentle spirits fly 1175
To scenes where love and bliss immortal reign.



W. Kent inv. et del.

P. Fourdrinier Sculp

SUMMER.

S U M M E R.

THE ARGUMENT.

The subject proposed. Invocation. Address to Mr. DODINGTON. An introductory reflection on the motion of the heavenly bodies; whence the succession of the seasons. As the face of Nature in this season is almost uniform, the progress of the poem is a description of a summer's day. The dawn. Sun-rising. Hymn to the sun. Forenoon. Summer insects described. Hay-making. Sheep-shearing. Noon-day. A woodland retreat. Groups of herds and flocks. A solemn grove. How it affects a contemplative mind. A cataract, and a rude scene. View of Summer in the torrid zone. Storm of thunder and lightning. A tale. The storm over, a serene afternoon. Bathing. Hour of walking. Transition to the prospect of a rich well-cultivated country; which introduces a panegyric on GREAT BRITAIN. Sun-set. Evening. Night. Summer meteors. A comet. The whole concluding with the praise of philosophy.

S U M M E R.

FROM brightening fields of ether fair disclos'd,
 Child of the sun, refulgent SUMMER comes,
 In pride of youth, and felt thro' Nature's depth :
 He comes attended by the sultry *hours*,
 And ever-fanning *breezes*, on his way ; 5
 While, from his ardent look, the turning SPRING
 Averts her blushful face ; and earth, and skies,
 All smiling, to his hot dominion leaves.

HENCE, let me haste into the mid-wood shade,
 Where scarce a sun-beam wanders thro' the gloom ; 10
 And on the dark-green grass, beside the brink
 Of haunted stream, that by the roots of oak
 Rolls o'er the rocky channel, lie at large,
 And sing the glories of the circling year.

COME, *Inspiration* ! from thy hermit-seat, 15
 By mortal seldom found : may Fancy dare,
 From thy fix'd serious eye, and raptur'd glance
 Shot on surrounding Heaven, to steal one look

Creative of the Poet, every power
Exalting to an ecstasy of soul.

20

AND thou, my youthful muse's early friend,
In whom the human graces all unite :
Pure light of mind, and tenderness of heart ;
Genius, and wisdom ; the gay social sense,
By decency chastis'd ; goodness and wit, 25
In seldom-meeting harmony combin'd ;
Unblemish'd honour, and an active zeal,
For BRITAIN's glory, Liberty, and Man :
O DODINGTON ! attend my rural song,
Stoop to my theme, inspire every line, 30
And teach me to deserve thy just applause.

WITH what an awful world-revolving power,
Were first th' unwieldy planets launch'd along
Th' illimitable void ! Thus to remain,
Amid the flux of many thousand years, 35
That oft has swept the toiling race of men,
And all their labour'd monuments away,
Firm, unremitting, matchless, in their course ;
To the kind-temper'd change of night and day,
And of the seasons ever stealing round, 40
Minutely faithful : SUCH TH' ALL-PERFECT HAND ;
That pois'd, impels, and rules the steady whole.

WHEN now no more th' alternate *Twins* are fir'd,
And *Cancer* reddens with the solar blaze,

Short

S U M M E R.

51

Short is the doubtful empire of the night; 45
 And soon, observant of approaching day,
 The meek-ey'd Morn appears, Mother of dews,
 At first faint-gleaming in the dappled east :
 Till far o'er ether spreads the widening glow ;
 And, from before the lustre of her face, 50
 White break the clouds away. With quicken'd step,
 Brown Night retires : Young Day pours in apace,
 And opens all the lawny prospect wide.
 The dripping rock, the mountain's misty top
 Swell on the sight, and brighten with the dawn. 55
 Blue thro' the dusk, the smoaking currents shine ;
 And from the-bladed field the fearful hare
 Limp, aukward : while along the forest-glade
 The wild deer trip, and often turning gaze
 At early passenger. Music awakes, 60
 The native voice of undiffembled joy ;
 And thick around the woodland hymns arise.
 Rous'd by the cock, the soon-clad shepherd leaves
 His mossy cottage, where with *Peace* he dwells ;
 And from the crouded fold, in order, drives 65
 His flock, to taste the verdure of the morn.

FALSELY luxurious, will not Man awake ;
 And, springing from the bed of sloth, enjoy
 The cool, the fragrant, and the silent hour,
 To meditation due and sacred song ? 70
 For is there aught in sleep can charm the wife ?

To lie in dead oblivion, losing half
 The fleeting moments of too short a life ?
 Total extinction of th' enlightened soul !
 Or else to feverish vanity alive, 75
 Wildered, and tossing thro' distemper'd dreams ?
 Who would in such a gloomy state remain,
 Longer than Nature craves ; when every Muse
 And every blooming pleasure wait without,
 To bless the wildly-devious morning-walk ? 80

BUT yonder comes the powerful King of Day,
 Rejoicing in the east. The lessening cloud,
 The kindling azure, and the mountain's brow
 Illum'd with fluid gold, his near approach
 Betoken glad. Lo ! now apparent all, 85
 Aflant the dew-bright earth, and colour'd air,
 He looks in boundless majesty abroad ;
 And sheds the shining day, that burnish'd plays
 On rocks, and hills, and towers, and wandering streams,
 High-gleaming from afar. Prime chearer Light ! 90
 Of all material beings first, and best !
 Efflux divine ! Nature's resplendent robe !
 Without whose vesting beauty all were wrapt
 In unessential gloom ; and thou, O Sun !
 Soul of surrounding worlds ! in whom best seen 95
 Shines out thy Maker ! may I sing of thee ?

'Tis by thy secret, strong, attractive force,
 As with a chain indissoluble bound,

Thy

S U M M E R.

53

Thy System rolls entire : from the far bourn
Of utmost *Saturn*, wheeling wide his round 100
Of thirty years ; to *Mercury*, whose disk
Can scarce be caught by philosophic eye,
Lost in the near effulgence of thy blaze.

INFORMER of the planetary train !
Without whose quickening glance their cumbrous orbs
Were brute unlovely mafs, inert and dead, 106
And not as now the green abodes of life ;
How many forms of being wait on thee !
Inhaling spirit ; from th' unfetter'd mind,
By thee sublim'd, down to the daily race, 110
The mixing myriads of thy setting beam.

THE vegetable world is also thine,
Parent of *Seasons* ! who the pomp precede
That waits thy throne, as thro' thy vast domain,
Annual, along the bright ecliptic-road, 115
In world-rejoicing state, it moves sublime.
Mean-time th' expecting nations, circled gay
With all the various tribes of foodful earth,
Implore thy bounty, or send grateful up 119
A common hymn : while, round thy beaming car,
High-seen, the *Seasons* lead, in sprightly dance
Harmonious knit, the rosy-finger'd *Hours*,
The *Zephyrs* floating loose, the timely *Rains*,
Of bloom ethereal the light-footed *Dews*,
And softened into joy the surly *Storms*. 125

D 3

These,

These, in successive turn, with lavish hand,
 Shower every beauty, every fragrance shower,
 Herbs, flowers, and fruits ; till, kindling at thy touch,
 From land to land is flush'd the vernal year.

NOR to the surface of enliven'd earth, 130
 Graceful with hills and dales, and leafy woods,
 Her liberal treasures, is thy force confin'd :
 But, to the bowel'd cavern darting deep,
 The mineral kinds confess thy mighty power.
 Effulgent, hence the veiny marble shines ; 135
 Hence Labour draws his tools ; hence burnish'd War
 Gleams on the day ; the nobler works of Peace
 Hence bless mankind, and generous Commerce bind^s
 The round of nations in a golden chain.

TH' unfruitful rock itself impregn'd by thee, 140
 In dark retirement, forms the lucid stone.
 The lively Diamond drinks thy purest rays,
 Collected light, compact ; that polish'd bright,
 And all its native lustre let abroad,
 Dares, as it sparkles on the fair-one's breast, 145
 With vain ambition emulate her eyes.
 At thee the Ruby lights its deepening glow,
 And with a waving radiance inward flames.
 From thee the Sapphire, solid ether, takes
 Its hue cerulean ; and, of evening tinct, 150
 'The purple-streaming Amethyst is thine.
 With thy own smile the yellow Topaz burns.

Nor

S U M M E R.

55

Nor deeper verdure dyes the robe of Spring,
When first she gives it to the southern gale, 154
Than the green Emerald shows. But, all combin'd,
Thick thro' the whitening Opal play thy beams;
Or, flying several from its surface, form
A trembling variance of revolving hues,
As the site varies in the gazer's hand.

THE very dead creation, from thy touch, 160
Assumes a mimic life. By thee refin'd,
In brighter mazes, the relucient stream
Plays o'er the mead. The precipice abrupt,
Projecting horror on the blacken'd flood,
Softens at thy return. The desert joys 165
Wildly, thro' all his melancholy bounds.
Rude ruins glitter; and the briny deep,
Seen from some pointed promontory's top,
Far to the blue horizon's utmost verge,
Restless, reflects a floating gleam. But this, 170
And all the much-transported Muse can sing,
Are to thy beauty, dignity, and use,
Unequal far; great delegated source
Of light, and life, and grace, and joy below!

How shall I then attempt to sing of Him, 175
Who, LIGHT HIMSELF, in uncreated light
Invested deep, dwells awfully retir'd
From mortal eye, or angel's purer ken;
Whose single smile has, from the first of time,

Fill'd, overflowing, all those lamps of Heaven, 180
 That beam for ever thro' the boundless sky;
 But, should he hide his face, th' astonish'd sun,
 And all th' extinguish'd stars, would loosening reel
 Wide from their spheres, and Chaos come again.

And yet was every faltering tongue of Man, 185
 ALMIGHTY FATHER! silent in thy praise;
 Thy Works themselves would raise a general voice,
 Even in the depth of solitary woods
 By human foot untrod, proclaim thy power,
 And to the quire celestial THEE resound, 190
 Th' eternal cause, support, and end of all!

To me be Nature's volume broad-display'd;
 And to peruse its all-instructing page,
 Or, haply catching inspiration thence,
 Some easy passage, raptur'd, to translate, 195
 My sole delight; as thro' the falling glooms
 Pensive I stray, or with the rising dawn
 On Fancy's eagle-wing excursive soar.

Now, flaming up the heavens, the potent sun
 Melts into limpid air the high-rais'd clouds, 200
 And morning fogs, that hover'd round the hills
 In party-colour'd bands; till wide unveil'd
 The face of Nature shines, from where earth seems
 Far-stretch'd around, to meet the bending sphere.

S U M M E R.

57

HALF in a blush of clustering roses lost, 205
 Dew-dropping *Coolness* to the shade retires;
 There, on the verdant turf, or flowery bed,
 By gelid founts and careless rills to muse:
 While tyrant *Heat*, disspreading thro' the sky,
 With rapid sway, his burning influence darts 210
 On Man, and beast, and herb, and tepid stream.

Who can un pitying see the flowery race,
 Shed by the morn, their new-flush'd bloom resign,
 Before the parching beam? So fade the fair,
 When fevers revel thro' their azure veins. 215
 But one, the lofty follower of the sun,
 Sad when he sets, shuts up her yellow leaves,
 Drooping all night; and, when he warm returns,
 Points her enamour'd bosom to his ray.

HOME, from his morning task, the swain retreats;
 His flock before him stepping to the fold: 221
 While the full-udder'd mother lows around
 The chearful cottage, then expecting food,
 The food of innocence, and health! The daw,
 The rook and magpie, to the grey-grown oaks 225
 (That the calm village in their verdant arms,
 Sheltering, embrace) direct their lazy flight;
 Where on the mingling boughs they sit embower'd,
 All the hot noon, till cooler hours arise.
 Faint, underneath, the household fowls convene; 230

D 5

And.

And, in a corner of the buzzing shade,
 The house-dog, with the vacant greyhound, lies,
 Out-stretch'd, and sleepy. In his slumbers one
 Attacks the nightly thief, and one exults
 O'er hill and dale ; till waken'd by the wasp, 235
 They starting snap. Nor shall the Muse disdain
 To let the little noisy summer-race
 Live in her lay, and flutter thro' her song :
 Not mean tho' simple ; to the sun ally'd,
 From him they draw their animating fire. 240

WAK'D by his warmer ray, the reptile young
 Come wing'd abroad ; by the light air upborn,
 Lighter, and full of soul. From every chink,
 And secret corner, where they slept away
 The wintry storms ; or rising from their tombs, 245
 To higher life ; by myriads, forth at once,
 Swarming they pour ; of all the vary'd hues
 Their beauty-beaming parent can disclose.
 Ten thousand forms ! Ten thousand different tribes !
 People the blaze. To sunny waters some 250
 By fatal instinct fly ; where on the pool
 They, sportive, wheel ; or, sailing down the stream,
 Are snatch'd immediate by the quick-ey'd trout,
 Or darting falmon. Thro' the green-wood glade
 Some love to stray ; there lodg'd, amus'd and fed, 255
 In the fresh leaf. Luxurious, others make
 The meads their choice, and visit every flower,
 And every latent herb : for the sweet task,

To

S U M M E R.

59

To propagate their kinds, and where to wrap,
 In what soft beds, their young yet undisclos'd, 260
 Employs their tender care. Some to the house,
 The fold, and dairy, hungry, bend their flight;
 Sip round the pail, or taste the curdling cheese:
 Oft, inadvertent, from the milky stream
 They meet their fate; or, weltering in the bowl, 26;
 With powerless wings around them wrapt, expire.

BUT chief to heedless flies the window proves
 A constant death; where, gloomily retir'd,
 The villain spider lives, cunning, and fierce,
 Mixture abhorr'd! Amid a mangled heap 270
 Of carcases, in eager watch he sits,
 O'erlooking all his waving snares around.
 Near the dire cell the dreadless wanderer oft
 Passes, as oft the ruffian shows his front;
 The prey at last ensnar'd, he dreadful darts, 275
 With rapid glide, along the leaning line;
 And, fixing in the wretch his cruel fangs,
 Strikes backward grimly pleas'd: the fluttering wing,
 And shriller sound declare extreme distress,
 And ask the helping hospitable hand. 280

RESOUNDS the living surface of the ground:
 Nor undelightful is the ceaseless hum,
 To him who muses thro' the woods at noon;
 Or drowsy shepherd, as he lies reclin'd,
 With half-shut eyes, beneath the floating shade 285

Of willows grey, close-crouding o'er the brook.

GRADUAL, from these what numerous kinds descend,
 Evading even the microscopic eye !
 Full Nature swarms with life ; one wondrous mass
 Of animals, or atoms organiz'd, 290
 Waiting the *vital Breath*, when PARENT-HEAVEN
 Shall bid his spirit blow. The hoary fen,
 In putrid steams, emits the living cloud
 Of pestilence. Thro' subterranean cells,
 Where searching sun-beams scarce can find a way, 295
 Earth animated heaves. The flowery leaf
 Wants not its soft inhabitants. Secure,
 Within its winding citadel, the stone
 Holds multitudes. But chief the forest-boughs,
 That dance unnumber'd to the playful breeze, 300
 The downy orchard, and the melting pulp
 Of mellow fruit, the nameless nations feed
 Of evanescent insects. Where the pool
 Stands mantled o'er with green, invisible,
 Amid the floating verdure millions stray. 305
 Each liquid too, whether it pierces, sooths,
 Inflames, refreshes, or exalts the taste,
 With various forms abounds. Nor is the stream
 Of purest crystal, nor the lucid air,
 Tho' one transparent vacancy it seems, 310
 Void of their unseen people. These, conceal'd
 By the kind art of forming HEAVEN, escape
 The grosser eye of Man : for, if the worlds

In

S U M M E R.

61

In worlds inclos'd should on his senses burst,
From cates ambrosial, and the nectar'd bowl, 315
He would abhorrent turn; and in dead night,
When silence sleeps o'er all, be stun'd with noise.

LET no presuming impious railer tax
CREATIVE WISDOM, as if aught was form'd
In vain, or not for admirable ends. 320
Shall little haughty ignorance pronounce
His works unwise, of which the smallest part
Exceeds the narrow vision of her mind?
As if upon a full-proportion'd dome,
On swelling columns heav'd, the pride of art! 325
A critic-fly, whose feeble ray scarce spreads
An inch around, with blind presumption bold,
Should dare to tax the structure of the whole.
And lives the Man, whose universal eye
Has swept at once th' unbounded scheme of things;
Mark'd their dependance so, and firm accord, 331
As with unfaltering accent to conclude
That *This* availeth nought? Has any seen
The mighty chain of beings, lessening down
From INFINITE PERFECTION to the brink 335
Of dreary *Nothing*, desolate abyss!
From which astonish'd thought, recoiling, turns?
Till then alone let zealous praise ascend,
And hymns of holy wonder, to that POWER,
Whose wisdom shines as lovely on our minds, 340
As on our smiling eyes his servant-sun.

THICK

Thick in yon stream of light, a thousand ways,
 Upward, and downward, thwarting, and convolv'd,
 The quivering nations sport; till, tempest-wing'd,
 Fierce Winter sweeps them from the face of day.
 Even so luxurious Men, unheeding, pass 346
 An idle summer-life in fortune's shine,
 A season's glitter! Thus they flutter on
 From toy to toy, from vanity to vice;
 Till, blown away by death, oblivion comes 350
 Behind, and strikes them from the book of life.

Now swarms the village o'er the jovial mead:
 The rustic youth, brown with meridian toil,
 Healthful, and strong; full as the summer-rose
 Blown by prevailing suns, the ruddy maid, 355
 Half naked, swelling on the sight, and all
 Her kindled graces burning o'er her cheek.
 Even slooping age is here, and infant-hands
 Trail the long rake, or, with the fragrant load
 O'ercharg'd, amid the kind oppression roll. 360
 Wide flies the tedded grain; all in a row
 Advancing broad, or wheeling round the field,
 They spread the breathing harvest to the sun,
 That throws refreshful round a rural smell:
 Or, as they rake the green-appearing ground, 365
 And drive the dusky wave along the mead,
 The russet hay-cock rises thick behind,
 In order gay. While heard from dale to dale,
 Waking the breeze, resounds the blended voice

Of

S U M M E R.

63

Of happy labour, love, and social glee.

370

OR rushing thence, in one diffusive band,
 They drive the troubled flocks, by many a dog
 Compell'd, to where the mazy-running brook
 Forms a deep pool : this bank abrupt and high,
 And That fair-spreading in a pebbled shore. 375
 Urg'd to the giddy brink, much is the toil,
 The clamour much of men, and boys, and dogs,
 Ere the soft fearful people to the flood
 Commit their woolly sides. And oft the swain,
 On some impatient seizing, hurls them in : 380
 Embolden'd then, nor hesitating more,
 Fast, fast, they plunge amid the flashing wave,
 And panting labour to the farthest shore.
 Repeated this, till deep the well-wash'd fleece
 Has drunk the flood, and from his lively haunt 385
 The trout is banish'd by the sordid stream ;
 Heavy, and dripping, to the breezy brow
 Slow move the harmless race : where, as they spread
 Their swelling treasures to the sunny ray,
 Inly disturb'd, and wondering what this wild 390
 Outrageous tumult means, their loud complaints
 The country fill ; and, toss'd from rock to rock,
 Incessant bleatings run around the hills.
 At last, of snowy white, the gather'd flocks
 Are in the wattled pen innumeros press'd, 395
 Head above head ; and, rang'd in lusty rows
 The shepherds sit, and whet the sounding shears.

The

The houswife waits to roll her fleecy stores,
 With all her gay-drest maids attending round.
 One, chief, in gracious dignity inthron'd, 400
 Shines o'er the rest, the pastoral queen, and rays
 Her smiles, sweet-beaming, on her shepherd-king;
 While the glad circle round them yield their souls
 To festive mirth, and wit that knows no gall.
 Meantime, their joyous task goes on apace : 405
 Some mingling stir the melted tar, and some,
 Deep on the new-thorn vagrant's heaving side,
 To stamp his master's cypher ready stand;
 Others th' unwilling wether drag along,
 And, glorying in his might, the sturdy boy. 410
 Holds by the tiwsted horns th' indignant ram.
 Behold where bound, and of its robe bereft,
 By needy Man, that all-depending lord,
 How meek, how patient, the mild creature lies !
 What softness in its melancholy face, 415
 What dumb complaining innocence appears !
 Fear not, ye gentle tribes, 'tis not the knife
 Of horrid slaughter that is o'er you wav'd ;
 No, 'tis the tender swain's well-guided shears,
 Who having now, to pay his annual care, 420
 Borrow'd your fleece, to you a cumbrous load,
 Will send you bounding to your hills again.

A simple scene ! yet hence BRITANNIA fees
 Her solid grandeur rise : hence she commands
 Th' exalted stores of every brighter clime, 425
 The

The treasures of the Sun without his rage :
 Hence, fervent all, with culture, toil, and arts,
 Wide glows her land : her dreadful thunder hence
 Rides o'er the waves sublime, and now, even now,
 Impending hangs o'er *Gallia's* humbled coast ; 430
 Hence rules the circling deep, and awes the world.

'Tis raging Noon ; and, vertical, the Sun
 Darts on the head direct his forceful rays.
 O'er heaven and earth, far as the ranging eye
 Can sweep, a dazling deluge reigns ; and all 435
 From pole to pole is undistinguish'd blaze.
 In vain the sight, dejected to the ground,
 Stoops for relief ; thence hot ascending steams
 And keen reflection pain. Deep to the root
 Of vegetation parch'd, the cleaving fields 440
 And slippery lawn an arid hue disclose,
 Blast Fancy's blooms, and wither even the Soul.
 Echo no more returns the chearful sound
 Of sharpening scythe : the mower sinking heaps
 O'er him the humid hay, with flowers perfum'd ;
 And scarce a chirping grass-hopper is heard 446
 Thro' the dumb mead. Distressful Nature pants.
 The very streams look languid from afar ;
 Or, thro' th' unshelter'd glade, impatient, seem
 To hurl into the covert of the grove. 450

ALL-CONQUERING Heat, oh intermit thy wrath !
 And on my throbbing temples potent thus

Beam

Beam not so fierce ! Incessant still you flow,
 And still another fervent flood succeeds,
 Pour'd on the head profuse. In vain I sigh, 445
 And restless turn, and look around for Night ;

Night is far off ; and hotter hours approach.
 Thrice happy he ! who on the sunless side
 Of a romantic mountain, forest-crown'd,
 Beneath the whole collected shade reclines : 460

Or in the gelid caverns, woodbine-wrought,
 And fresh bedew'd with ever-spouting streams,
 Sits coolly calm ; while all the world without,
 Unsatisfied, and sick, tosses in noon.

Emblem instructive of the virtuous Man, 465
 Who keeps his temper'd mind serene, and pure,
 And every passion aptly harmoniz'd,
 Amid a jarring world with vice inflam'd.

WELCOME, ye shades ! ye bowery thickets, hail !
 Ye lofty pines ! ye venerable oaks ! 470
 Ye ashes wild, resounding o'er the steep !
 Delicious is your shelter to the soul,
 As to the hunted hart the falling spring,
 Or stream full-flowing, that his swelling sides
 Laves, as he floats along the herbag'd brink. 475
 Cool, thro' the nerves, your pleasing comfort glides ;
 The heart beats glad ; the fresh-expanded eye
 And ear resume their watch ; the sinews knit ;
 And life shoots swift thro' all the lighten'd limbs.

AROUND

S U M M E R.

67

AROUND th' adjoining brook, that purls along
 The vocal grove, now fretting o'er a rock, 481
 Now scarcely moving thro' a reedy pool,
 Now starting to a sudden stream, and now
 Gently diffus'd into a limpid plain ;
 A various groupe the herds and flocks compose, 485
 Rural confusion ! On the grassy bank
 Some ruminating lie ; while others stand
 Half in the flood, and often bending sip
 The circling surface. In the middle droops
 The strong laborious ox, of honest front, 490
 Which incompos'd he shakes ; and from his sides
 The troublous insects lashes with his tail,
 Returning still. Amid his subjects safe,
 Slumbers the monarch-swain ; his careless arm 494
 Thrown round his head, on downy moss sustain'd ;
 Here laid his scrip, with wholesome viands fill'd :
 There, listening every noise, his watchful dog.

LIGHT fly his slumbers, if perchance a flight
 Of angry gad-flies fasten on the herd ;
 That startling scatters from the shallow brook, 500
 In search of lavish stream. Tossing the foam,
 They scorn the keeper's voice, and scour the plain,
 Thro' all the bright severity of noon ;
 While, from their labouring breasts, a hollow moan
 Proceeding, runs low-bellowing round the hills. 505

OFt in this season too the horse, provok'd,
 While his big sinews full of spirits swell,
 Trembling

Trembling with vigour, in the heat of blood,
 Springs the high fence ; and, o'er the field effus'd,
 Darts on the gloomy flood, with stedfast eye, 510
 And heart estrang'd to fear : his nervous chest,
 Luxuriant, and erect, the seat of strength !
 Bears down th' opposing stream : quenchless his thirst ;
 He takes the river at redoubled draughts ; 514
 And with wide nostrils, snorting, skims the wave.

STILL let me pierce into the midnight depth
 Of yonder grove, of wildest largest growth :
 That, forming high in air a woodland quire,
 Nods o'er the mount beneath. At every step,
 Solemn, and slow, the shadows blacker fall, 520
 And all is awful listening gloom around.

THESE are the haunts of Meditation, these
 The scenes where ancient bards th' inspiring breath,
 Extatic, felt ; and, from this world retir'd,
 Convers'd with angels, and immortal forms, 525
 On gracious errands bent : to save the fall
 Of virtue struggling on the brink of vice ;
 In waking whispers, and repeated dreams,
 To hint pure thought, and warn the favour'd soul
 For future trials fated to prepare ; 530
 To prompt the poet, who devoted gives
 His muse to better themes ; to sooth the pangs
 Of dying worth, and from the patriot's breast,
 (Backward to mingle in detested war,

But

But foremost when engag'd to turn the death ; 535
 And numberless such offices of love,
 Daily, and nightly, zealous to perform.

SHOOK sudden from the bosom of the sky,
 A thousand shapes or glide athwart the dusk,
 Or stalk majestic on. Deep-rous'd, I feel 540
 A sacred terror, a severe delight,
 Creep thro' my mortal frame ; and thus, methinks,
 A voice, than human more, th' abstracted ear
 Of fancy strikes. " Be not of us afraid,
 " Poor kindred Man ! thy fellow-creatures, we 545
 " From the same PARENT-POWER our beings drew,
 " The same our Lord, and laws, and great pursuit.
 " Once some of us, like thee, thro' stormy life,
 " Toil'd, tempest-beaten, ere we could attain
 " This holy calm, this harmony of mind, 550
 " Where purity and peace imingle charms.
 " Then fear not us ; but with responsive song,
 " Amid these dim recesses, undisturb'd
 " By noisy folly and discordant vice,
 " Of Nature sing with us, and Nature's God. 555
 " Here frequent, at the visionary hour,
 " When musing midnight reigns or silent noon,
 " Angelic harps are in full concert heard,
 " And voices chaunting from the wood-crown'd hill,
 " The deepening dale, or inmost silvan glade : 560
 " A privilege bestow'd by us, alone,
 " On Contemplation, or the hallow'd ear
 " Of

“ Of Poet, swelling to seraphic strain.”

AND art thou, * STANLEY, of that sacred band ?
 Alas, for us too soon !—Tho’ rais’d above 565
 The reach of human pain, above the flight
 Of human joy ; yet, with a mingled ray
 Of sadly-pleas’d remembrance, must thou feel
 A mother’s love, a mother’s tender woe :
 Who seeks thee still, in many a former scene ; 570
 Seeks thy fair form, thy lovely-beaming eyes,
 Thy pleasing converse, by gay lively sense
 Inspir’d : where moral wisdom mildly shone,
 Without the toil of art ; and virtue glow’d,
 In all her smiles, without forbidding pride. 575
 But, O thou best of parents ! wipe thy tears ;
 Or rather to PARENTAL NATURE pay
 The tears of grateful joy, who for a while
 Lent thee this younger self, this opening bloom
 Of thy enlighten’d mind and gentle worth. 580
 Believe the Muse : the wintry blast of death
 Kills not the buds of virtue ; no, they spread,
 Beneath the heavenly beam of brighter suns,
 Thro’ endless ages, into higher powers.

THUS up the mount, in airy vision rapt, 585
 I stray, regardless whither ; till the sound
 Of a near fall of water every sense

* A young lady, well known to the author, who died at the age of eighteen, in the year 1738.

S U M M E R.

71

Wakes from the charm of thought : swift-shrinking
back,

I check my steps, and view the broken scene. 589

SMOOTH to the shelving brink a copious flood
Rolls fair, and placid ; where collected all,
In one impetuous torrent, down the steep
It thundering shoots, and shakes the country round.
At first, an azure sheet, it rushes broad ;
Then whitening by degrees, as prone it falls, 595
And from the loud-resounding rocks below
Dash'd in a cloud of foam, it sends aloft
A hoary mist, and forms a ceaseless shower.
Nor can the tortur'd wave here find repose :
But, raging still amid the shaggy rocks, 600
Now flashes o'er the scatter'd fragments, now
Aslant the hollowed channel rapid darts ;
And falling fast from gradual slope to slope,
With wild inflected course, and lessened roar,
It gains a safer bed, and steals, at last, 605
Along the mazes of the quiet vale.

INVITED from the cliff, to whose dark brow
He clings, the steep-ascending eagle soars,
With upward pinions thro' the flood of day ;
And, giving full his bosom to the blaze, 610
Gains on the sun ; while all the tuneful race,
Smit by afflictive noon, disorder'd droop,
Deep in the thicket ; or, from bower to bower

Respon-

Responsive, force an interrupted strain.

The stock-dove only thro' the forest cooes, 615

Mournfully hoarse ; oft ceasing from his plaint,

Short interval of weary woe ! again

The sad idea of his murder'd mate,

Struck from his side by savage fowler's guile,

Across his fancy comes ; and then resounds 620

A louder song of sorrow thro' the grove.

BESIDE the dewy border let me sit,

All in the freshness of the humid air ;

There in that hollowed rock, grotesque and wild,

An ample chair moss-lin'd, and over head 625

By flowering umbrage shaded ; where the bee

Strays diligent, and with th' extracted balm

Of fragrant wood-bine loads his little thigh.

Now, while I taste the sweetness of the shade,

While Nature lies around deep-lull'd in Noon, 630

Now come, bold *Fancy*, spread a daring flight,

And view the wonders of the *torrid Zone* :

Climes unrelenting ! with whose rage compar'd,

Yon blaze is feeble, and yon skies are cool.

SEE, how at once the bright effulgent sun, 635

Rising direct, swift chases from the sky

The short-liv'd twilight ; and with ardent blaze

Looks gayly fierce o'er all the dazzling air :

He mounts his throne ; but kind before him sends,

Iffuing from out the portals of the morn, 640

The

S U M M E R.

73

The * *general Breeze*, to mitigate his fire,
 And breathe refreshment on a fainting world.
 Great are the scenes, with dreadful beauty crown'd
 And barbarous wealth, that see, each circling year,
Returning suns and † *double seasons* pass: 645
 Rocks rich in gems, and mountains big with mines,
 That on the high equator ridgy rise,
 Whence many a bursting stream auriferous plays:
 Majestic woods, of every vigorous green,
 Stage above stage, high-waving o'er the hills; 650
 Or to the far horizon wide diffus'd,
 A boundless deep immensity of shade.
 Here lofty trees, to antient song unknown,
 The noble sons of potent heat and floods 654
 Prone-rushing from the clouds, rear high to Heaven
 Their thorny stems, and broad around them throw
 Meridian gloom. Here, in eternal prime,
 Unnumber'd fruits, of keen delicious taste
 And vital spirit, drink amid the cliffs,
 And burning sands that bank the shrubby vales, 660
 Redoubled day, yet in their rugged coats
 A friendly juice to cool its rage contain.

* Which blows constantly between the tropics from the east, or the collateral points, the north-east and south-east: caused by the pressure of the rarefied air on that before it, according to the diurnal motion of the sun from east to west.

† In all places between the tropics, the sun, as he passes and repasses in his annual motion, is twice a-year perpendicular, which produces this effect.

BEAR me, *Pomona* ! to thy citron groves ;
 To where the lemon and the piercing lime,
 With the deep orange, glowing thro' the green, 665
 Their lighter glories blend. Lay me reclin'd
 Beneath the spreading tamarind that shakes,
 Fann'd by the breeze, its fever-cooling fruit.
 Deep in the night the massy locust sheds, 669
 Quench my hot limbs ; or lead me thro' the maze,
 Embowering endless, of the *Indian* fig ;
 Or thrown at gayer ease, on some fair brow,
 Let me behold, by breezy murmurs cool'd,
 Broad o'er my head the verdant cedar wave,
 And high palmetos lift their graceful shade. 675
 O stretch'd amid these orchards of the sun,
 Give me to drain the cocoa's milky bowl,
 And from the palm to draw its freshening wine !
 More bounteous far than all the frantic juice
 Which *Bacchus* pours. Nor, on its slender twigs
 Low-bending, be the full pomegranate scorn'd ; 681
 Nor, creeping thro' the woods, the gelid race
 Of berries. Oft in humble station dwells
 Unboastful worth, above fastidious pomp.
 Witness, thou best Anána, thou the pride 685
 Of vegetable life, beyond whate'er
 The poets imag'd in the golden age :
 Quick, let me strip thee of thy tufty coat,
 Spread thy ambrosial stores, and feast with *Jove* !

FROM

FROM these the prospect varies. Plains immense
 Lie stretch'd below, interminable meads, 691
 And vast savannahs, where the wandering eye,
 Unfixt, is in a verdant ocean lost.
 Another *Flora* there, of bolder hues,
 And richer sweets, beyond our garden's pride, 695
 Plays o'er the fields, and showers with sudden hand
 Exuberant spring : for oft these valleys shift
 Their green-embroider'd robe to fiery brown,
 And swift to green again, as scorching suns,
 Or streaming dews and torrent rains, prevail. 700
 Along these lonely regions, where retir'd,
 From little scenes of art, great *Nature* dwells
 In awful solitude, and nought is seen
 But the wild herds that own no master's stall,
 Prodigious rivers roll their fatning seas : 705
 On whose luxuriant herbage, half-conceal'd,
 Like a fallen cedar, far diffus'd his train,
 Cas'd in green scales, the crocodile extends.
 The flood disparts : behold ! in plaited mail,
 * Behemoth rears his head. Glanc'd from his side,
 The darted steel in idle shivers flies : 711
 He fearless walks the plain, or seeks the hills ;
 Where, as he crops his vary'd fare, the herds,
 In widening circle round, forget their food,
 And at the harmless stranger wondering gaze. 715

* The Hippopotamus, or river-horse.

PEACEFUL, beneath primeval trees, that cast
 Their ample shade o'er *Niger's* yellow stream,
 And where the *Ganges* rolls his sacred wave ;
 Or mid the central depth of blackning woods,
 High-rai'd in solemn theater around, 720
 Leans the huge elephant : wisest of brutes !
 O truly wise ! with gentle might endow'd,
 Tho' powerful, not destructive ! Here he sees
 Revolving ages sweep the changeful earth,
 And empires rise and fall ; regardless he 725
 Of what the never-resting race of men
 Project : thrice happy ! could he scape their guile,
 Who mine, from cruel avarice, his steps ;
 Or with his towery grandeur swell their state,
 The pride of kings ! or else his strength pervert,
 And bid him rage amid the mortal fray, 731
 Astonish'd at the madness of mankind.

WIDE o'er the winding umbrage of the floods,
 Like vivid blossoms glowing from afar,
 Thick-swarm the brighter birds. For Nature's hand,
 That with a sportive vanity has deck'd 736
 The plummy nations, there her gayest hues
 Profusely pours. * But, if she bids them shine,
 Array'd in all the beauteous beams of day,

* In all the regions of the torrid zone, the birds, tho'
 more beautiful in their plumage, are observed to be less melodious
 than ours.

S U M M E R.

77

Yet frugal still, she humbles them in song. 740
 Nor envy we the gaudy robes they lent
 Proud *Montezuma's* realm, whose legions cast
 A boundless radiance waving on the sun,
 While Philomel is ours ; while in our shades,
 Thro' the soft silence of the listening night, 745
 The sober-suited songstress trills her lay.

BUT come, my *Muse*, the desert-barrier burst,
 A wild expanse of lifeless sand and sky :
 And, swifter than the toiling caravan,
 Shoot o'er the vale of *Sennar* ; ardent climb 750
 The *Nubian* mountains, and the secret bounds
 Of jealous *Abyssinia* boldly pierce.
 Thou art no ruffian, who beneath the mask
 Of social commerce com'st to rob their wealth ;
 No *holy Fury* thou, blaspheming HEAVEN, 755
 With consecrated steel to stab their peace,
 And thro' the land, yet red from civil wounds,
 To spread the purple tyranny of *Rome*.
 Thou, like the harmless bee, may'st freely range,
 From mead to mead bright with exalted flowers,
 From jasmine grove to grove, may'st wander gay, 761
 Thro' palmy shades and aromatic woods,
 That grace the plains, invest the peopled hills,
 And up the more than Alpine mountains wave.
 There on the breezy summit, spreading fair, 765
 For many a league ; or on stupendous rocks,
 That from the sun-redoubling valley lift,

Cool to the middle air, their lawny tops ;
 Where palaces, and fanes, and villas rise ;
 And gardens smile around, and cultur'd fields ; 770
 And fountains gush ; and careless herds and flocks
 Securely stray ; a world within itself,
 Disdaining all assault : there let me draw
 Ethereal soul, there drink reviving gales,
 Profusely breathing from the spicy groves, 775
 And vales of fragrance ; there at distance hear
 The roaring floods, and cataracts, that sweep
 From disembowel'd earth the virgin gold ;
 And o'er the varied landskip, restless, rove,
 Fervent with life of every fairer kind : 780
 A land of wonders ! which the sun still eyes
 With ray direct, as of the lovely realm
 Inamour'd, and delighting there to dwell.

How chang'd the scene ! In blazing height of noon,
 The sun, oppress'd, is plung'd in thickest gloom.
 Still Horror reigns, a dreary twilight round, 786
 Of struggling night and day malignant mix'd.
 Far to the hot equator crowding fast,
 Where, highly rarefy'd, the yielding air
 Admits their stream, incessant vapours roll, 790
 Amazing clouds on clouds continual heap'd ;
 Or whirl'd tempestuous by the gusty wind,
 Or silent borne along, heavy, and flow,
 With the big stores of steaming oceans charg'd.
 Meantime, amid these upper seas, condens'd 795
 Around

Around the cold aërial mountain's brow,
 And by conflicting winds together dash'd,
 The 'Thunder holds his black tremendous throne :
 From cloud to cloud the rending Lightnings rage ;
 Till, in the furious elemental war 800
 Dissolv'd, the whole precipitated mass
 Unbroken floods and solid torrents pours.

THE treasures these, hid from the bounded search
 Of ancient knowledge ; whence, with annual pomp,
 Rich king of floods ! o'erflows the swelling *Nile*.
 From his two springs, in *Gojam's* sunny realm, 806
 Pure-welling out, he thro' the lucid lake
 Of fair *Dambea* rolls his infant-stream.
 There, by the Naiads nurs'd, he sports away
 His playful youth, amid the fragrant isles, 810
 That with unfading verdure smile around.
 Ambitious, thence the manly river breaks ;
 And gathering many a flood, and copious fed
 With all the mellowed treasures of the sky,
 Winds in progressive majesty along : 815
 Thro' splendid kingdoms now devolves his maze,
 Now wanders wild o'er solitary tracts
 Of life-deserted sand ; till, glad to quit
 The joyless desert, down the *Nubian* rocks
 From thundering steep to steep he pours his urn, 820
 And *Egypt* joys beneath the spreading wave.

HIS brother *Niger* too, and all the floods
 In which the full-form'd maids of *Afric* lave
 Their jetty limbs ; and all that from the tract
 Of woody mountains stretch'd thro' gorgeous *Ind*
 Fall on *Cormandel's* coast, or *Malabar* ; 826
 From * *Menam's* orient stream, that nightly shines
 With insect-lamps, to where *Aurora* sheds
 On *Indus'* smiling banks the rosy shower :
 All, at this bounteous season, ope their urns, 830
 And pour untoiling harvest o'er the land.

NOR less thy world, *COLUMBUS*, drinks, refresh'd,
 The lavish moisture of the melting year.
 Wide o'er his isles, the branching *Oronoque*
 Rolls a brown deluge ; and the native drives 835
 To dwell aloft on life-sufficing trees,
 At once his dome, his robe, his food, and arms.
 Swell'd by a thousand streams, impetuous hurl'd
 From all the roaring *Andes*, huge descends
 The mighty † *Orellana*. Scarce the Muse 840
 Dares stretch her wing o'er this enormous mass
 Of rushing water ; scarce she dares attempt
 The sea-like *Plata* ; to whose dread expanse,
 Continuous depth, and wondrous length of course,

* The river that runs thro' *Siam* ; on whose banks a vast
 multitude of those insects called *Fire-flies* make a beautiful ap-
 pearance in the night.

† The river of the *Amazons*,

S U M M E R.

81

Our floods are rills. With unabated force, 845
 In silent dignity they sweep along,
 And traverse realms unknown, and blooming wilds,
 And fruitful deserts, worlds of solitude,
 Where the sun smiles and seasons teem in vain,
 Unseen, and unenjoy'd. Forsaking these, 850
 O'er peopled plains they fair-diffusive flow,
 And many a nation feed, and circle safe,
 In their soft bosom, many a happy isle ;
 The seat of blameless *Pan*, yet undisturb'd
 By christian crimes and *Europe's* cruel sons. 855
 Thus pouring on they proudly seek the deep,
 Whose vanquish'd tide, recoiling from the shock,
 Yields to this liquid weight of half the globe ;
 And ocean trembles for his green domain.

BUT what avails this wondrous waste of wealth ?
 This gay profusion of luxurious bliss ? 861
 This pomp of Nature ? what their balmy meads,
 Their powerful herbs, and *Ceres* void of pain ?
 By vagrant birds dispers'd, and wafting winds,
 What their unplanted fruits ? What the cool draughts,
 Th' ambrosial food, rich gums, and spicy health, 866
 Their forests yield ? Their toiling insects what,
 Their silky pride, and vegetable robes ?
 Ah ! what avail their fatal treasures, hid
 Deep in the bowels of the pitying earth, 870
Golconda's gems, and sad *Potosi's* mines ;
 Where dwelt the gentlest children of the sun ?

E 5

What

What all that *Afric's* golden rivers rowl,
 Her odorous woods, and shining ivory stores ?
 Ill-fated race ! the softening arts of Peace, 875
 Whate'er the humanizing Muses teach ;
 The godlike wisdom of the temper'd breast ;
 Progressive truth, the patient force of thought ;
 Investigation calm, whose silent powers
 Command the world ; the LIGHT that leads to
 HEAVEN ; 880

Kind equal rule, the government of laws,
 And all-protecting FREEDOM, which alone
 Sustains the name and dignity of Man :
 These are not theirs. The Parent-sun himself
 Seems o'er this world of slaves to tyrannize ; 885
 And, with oppressive ray, the roseat bloom
 Of beauty blasting, gives the gloomy hue,
 And feature gross : or worse, to ruthless deeds,
 Mad jealousy, blind rage, and fell revenge,
 Their fervid spirit fires. Love dwells not there,
 The soft regards, the tenderness of life, 891
 The heart-shed tear, th' ineffable delight
 Of sweet humanity : These court the beam
 Of milder climes ; in selfish fierce desire,
 And the wild fury of voluptuous sense, 895
 There lost. The very brute creation there
 This rage partakes, and burns with horrid fire.

Lo ! the green serpent, from his dark abode,
 Which even Imagination fears to tread,

At

S U M M E R.

83

At noon forth-issuing, gathers up his train 900
In orbs immense, then, darting out anew,
Seeks the refreshing fount ; by which diffus'd,
He throws his folds : and while, with threatening
tongue,

And deathful jaws erect, the monster curls
His flaming crest, all other thirst, appall'd, 905

Or shivering flies, or check'd at distance stands,
Nor dares approach. But still more direful he,

The small close-lurking minister of fate,
Whose high-concocted venom thro' the veins

A rapid lightning darts, arresting swift 910

The vital current Form'd to humble Man,

This child of vengeful Nature ! There, sublim'd

To fearless lust of blood, the savage race

Roam, licens'd by the shading hour of guilt,

And foul misdeed, when the pure day has shut 915

His sacred eye. The tyger darting fierce,

Impetuous on the prey his glance has doom'd :

The lively-shining leopard, speckled o'er

With many a spot, the beauty of the waste ;

And, scorning all the taming arts of Man, 920

The keen hyena, fellest of the fell.

These, rushing from th' inhospitable woods

Of *Mauritania*, or the tufted isles,

That verdant rise amid the *Lybian* wild,

Innumerable glare around their shaggy king, 925

Majestic, stalking o'er the printed sand ;

And, with imperious and repeated roars,

Demand their fated food. The fearful flocks
 Croud near the guardian swain; the nobler herds,
 Where round their lordly bull, in rural ease, 930
 They ruminating lie, with horror hear
 The coming rage. Th' awaken'd village starts;
 And to her fluttering breast the mother strains
 Her thoughtless infant. From the *Pyrate's* den,
 Or stern *Morocco's* tyrant fang escap'd, 935
 The wretch half-wishes for his bonds again:
 While, uproar all, the wilderness resounds,
 From *Atlas* eastward to the frighted *Nile*.

UNHAPPY he! who from the first of joys,
 Society, cut off, is left alone 940
 Amid this world of death. Day after day,
 Sad on the jutting eminence he sits,
 And views the main that ever toils below;
 Still fondly forming in the farthest verge,
 Where the round ether mixes with the wave, 945
 Ships, dim-discovered, dropping from the clouds;
 At evening, to the setting sun he turns
 A mournful eye, and down his dying heart
 Sinks helpless; while the wonted roar is up,
 And his continual thro' the tedious night. 950
 Yet here, even here, into these black abodes
 Of monsters, unappall'd, from stooping *Rome*,
 And guilty *Cæsar*, LIBERTY retir'd,
 Her CATO following thro' *Numidian* wilds:
 Disdainful of *Campania's* gentle plains, 955
 And

And all the green delights *Aufonia* pours ;
When for them she must bend the servile knee,
And fawning take the splendid robber's boon.

NOR stop the terrors of those regions here.
Commission'd demons oft, angels of wrath, 960
Let loose the raging elements. Breath'd hot,
From all the boundless furnace of the sky,
And the wide glittering waste of burning sand,
A suffocating wind the pilgrim smites
With instant death. Patient of thirst and toil, 965
Son of the desert ! even the camel feels,
Shot thro' his wither'd heart, the fiery blast.
Or from the black-red ether, bursting broad,
Sallies the sudden whirlwind. Strait the sands,
Commov'd around, in gathering eddies play : 970
Nearer and nearer still they darkening come ;
Till with the general all-involving storm
Swept up, the whole continuous wilds arise ;
And by their noon-day fount dejected thrown,
Or sunk at night in sad disastrous sleep, 975
Beneath descending hills, the caravan
Is buried deep. In *Cairo's* crowded streets,
Th' impatient merchant, wondering, waits in vain,
And *Mecca* saddens at the long delay.

BUT chief at sea, whose every flexile wave 980
Obeys the blast, th' ærial tumult swells.
In the dread ocean, undulating wide,

Beneath

Beneath the radiant line that girts the globe,
 The circling * Typhon, whirl'd from point to point,
 Exhausting all the rage of all the sky, 985
 And dire * Ecnephia reign. Amid the heavens,
 Falsely serene, deep in a cloudy † speck
 Compress'd, the mighty tempest brooding dwells:
 Of no regard, save to the skilful eye,
 Fiery and foul, the small prognostic hangs 990
 Aloft, or on the promontory's brow
 Musters its force. A faint deceitful calm,
 A fluttering gale, the demon sends before,
 To tempt the spreading sail. Then down at once,
 Precipitant, descends a mingled mass 995
 Of roaring winds, and flame, and rushing floods.
 In wild amazement fix'd the sailor stands.
 Art is too slow : By rapid fate oppress'd,
 His broad-wing'd vessel drinks the whelming tide,
 Hid in the bosom of the black abyss. 1000
 With such mad seas the daring ‡ GAMA fought,
 For many a day, and many a dreadful night,
 Incessant, lab'ring round the *stormy Cape* ;
 By bold ambition led, and bolder thirst
 Of gold. For then from ancient gloom emerg'd

* *Typhon* and *Ecnephia*, names of particular storms or hurricanes known only between the tropics.

† Called by sailors the *Ox-eye*, being in appearance at first no bigger.

‡ VASCO DE GAMA, the first who sailed round *Africa*, by the *Cape of Good-Hope*, to the *East-Indies*.

The

The rising world of trade : the *Genius*, then, 1006
 Of navigation, that, in hopeless sloth,
 Had slumber'd on the vast Atlantic deep,
 For idle ages, starting, heard at last
 The † LUSITANIAN PRINCE; who, HEAV'N-inspir'd,
 To love of useful glory rous'd mankind, 1011
 And in unbounded Commerce mix'd the world.

INCREASING still the terrors of these storms,
 His jaws horrific arm'd with threefold fate, 1014
 Here dwells the direful shark. Lur'd by the scent
 Of steaming crouds, of rank disease, and death,
 Behold ! he rushing cuts the briny flood,
 Swift as the gale can bear the ship along ;
 And, from the partners of that cruel trade,
 Which spoils unhappy *Guinea* of her sons, 1020
 Demands his share of prey ; demands themselves.
 The stormy fates descend : one death involves
 Tyrants and slaves ; when strait, their mangled limbs
 Crashing at once, he dyes the purple seas
 With gore, and riots in the vengeful meal. 1025

WHEN o'er this world, by equinoctial rains
 Flooded immense, looks out the joyless sun,

† DON HENRY, third son to *John* the first, king of *Portugal*. His strong genius to the discovery of new countries was the chief source of all the modern improvements in navigation.

And

And draws the copious steam : from swampy fens,
 Where putrefaction into life ferments,
 And breathes destructive myriads ; or from woods,
 Impenetrable shades, recesses foul, 1031
 In vapours rank and blue corruption wrapt,
 Whose gloomy horrors yet no desperate foot
 Has ever dar'd to pierce ; then, wasteful, forth
 Walks the dire *Power* of pestilent disease. 1035
 A thousand hideous fiends her course attend,
 Sick Nature blasting, and to heartless woe,
 And feeble desolation, casting down
 The towering hopes and all the pride of Man.
 Such as, of late, at *Carthagera* quench'd 1040
 The BRITISH fire. You, gallant VERNON, saw
 The miserable scene ; you, pitying, saw,
 To infant-weakness funk the warrior's arm ;
 Saw the deep-racking pang, the ghastly form,
 The lip pale-quivering, and the beamless eye 1045
 No more with ardour bright : you heard the groans
 Of agonizing ships, from shore to shore ;
 Heard, nightly plung'd amid the fullen waves,
 The frequent corse ; while on each other fix'd,
 In sad presage, the blank assistants seem'd, 1050
 Silent, to ask, whom Fate would next demand.

WHAT need I mention those inclement skies,
 Where, frequent o'er the sickening city, Plague,
 The fiercest child of NEMESIS divine,

Descends?

S U M M E R.

89

Descends ? * From *Ethiopia's* poisoned woods, 1055
 From stifled *Cairo's* filth, and fetid fields
 With locust-armies putrefying heap'd,
 This great destroyer sprung. Her awful rage
 The brutes escape : Man is her destin'd prey,
 Intemperate Man ! and, o'er his guilty domes, 1060
 She draws a close incumbent cloud of death ;
 Uninterrupted by the living winds,
 Forbid to blow a wholesome breeze ; and stain'd
 With many a mixture by the sun, suffus'd,
 Of angry aspect. Princely wisdom, then, 1065
 Dejects his watchful eye ; and from the hand
 Of feeble justice, ineffectual, drop
 The sword and balance : mute the voice of joy,
 And hush'd the clamour of the busy world.
 Empty the streets, with uncouth verdure clad ; 1070
 Into the worst of desarts sudden turn'd
 The chearful haunt of Men : unless escap'd
 From the doom'd house, where matchless horror reigns,
 Shut up by barbarous fear, the smitten wretch,
 With frenzy wild, breaks loose ; and, loud to heaven
 Screaming, the dreadful policy arraigns, 1076
 Inhuman, and unwise. The sullen door,
 Yet uninfected, on its cautious hinge
 Fearing to turn, abhors society :
 Dependants, friends, relations, Love himself, 1080

* These are the causes supposed to be the first origin of the *Plague*, in DOCTOR MEAD's elegant book on that Subject.

Savag'd

Savag'd by woe, forget the tender tie,
 The sweet engagement of the feeling heart.
 But vain their selfish care : the circling sky,
 The wide enlivening air is full of fate ;
 And, struck by turns, in solitary pangs 1085
 They fall, unblest, untended, and unmourn'd.
 Thus o'er the prostrate city black Despair
 Extends her raven wing ; while, to compleat
 The scene of desolation, stretch'd around,
 The grim guards stand, denying all retreat, 1090
 And give the flying wretch a better death.

Much yet remains unsung : the rage intense
 Of brazen-vaulted skies, of iron fields,
 Where drought and famine starve the blasted year :
 Fir'd by the torch of noon to tenfold rage, 1095
 Th' infuriate hill that shoots the pillar'd flame ;
 And, rous'd within the subterranean world,
 Th' expanding earthquake, that resistless shakes
 Aspiring cities from their solid base,
 And buries mountains in the flaming gulph. 1100
 But 'tis enough ; return, my vagrant Muse :
 A nearer scene of horror calls thee home.

BEHOLD, slow-settling o'er the lurid grove
 Unusual darkness broods ; and growing gains
 'The full possession of the sky, furcharg'd 1105
 With wrathful vapour, from the secret beds,
 Where sleep the mineral generations, drawn. .
 Thence

Thence Nitre, Sulphur, and the fiery spume
 Of fat Bitumen, steaming on the day,
 With various-tinctur'd trains of latent flame, 1110
 Pollute the sky, and in yon baleful cloud,
 A reddening gloom, a magazine of fate,
 Ferment ; till, by the touch ethereal rous'd,
 The dash of clouds, or irritating war
 Of fighting winds, while all is calm below, 1115
 They furious spring. A boding silence reigns,
 Dread thro' the dun expanse ; save the dull sound
 That from the mountain, previous to the storm,
 Rolls o'er the muttering earth, disturbs the flood,
 And shakes the forest-leaf without a breath. 1120
 Prone to the lowest vale, the aërial tribes
 Descend : the tempest-loving raven scarce
 Dares wing the dubious dusk. In rueful gaze
 The cattle stand, and on the scowling heavens
 Cast a deploring eye ; by Man forfook, 1125
 Who to the crowded cottage hies him fast,
 Or seeks the shelter of the downward cave.

'Tis listening fear, and dumb amazement all :
 When to the startled eye the sudden glance
 Appears far south, eruptive thro' the cloud ; 1130
 And following slower, in explosion vast,
 The Thunder raises his tremendous voice.
 At first, heard solemn o'er the verge of heaven,
 The tempest growls ; but as it nearer comes,
 And rolls its awful burden on the wind, 1135
 The

The lightnings flash a larger curve, and more
 The noise astounds : till over head a sheet
 Of livid flame discloses wide ; then shuts,
 And opens wider ; shuts and opens still
 Expansive, wrapping ether in a blaze. 1140
 Follows the loosen'd aggravated roar,
 Enlarging, deepening, mingling ; peal on peal
 Crush'd horrible, convulsing heaven and earth.

Down comes a deluge of sonorous hail, 1144
 Or prone-descending rain. Wide-rent, the clouds,
 Pour a whole flood ; and yet, its flame unquench'd,
 Th' unconquerable lightning struggles through,
 Ragged and fierce, or in red whirling balls,
 And fires the mountains with redoubled rage. 1149
 Black from the stroke, above, the smouldring pine
 Stands a sad shatter'd trunk ; and, stretch'd below,
 A lifeless groupe the blasted cattle lie.
 Here the soft flocks, with that same harmless look
 They wore alive, and ruminating still
 In fancy's eye ; and there the frowning bull, 1155
 And ox half-rais'd. Struck on the castled cliff,
 The venerable tower and spiry fane
 Resign their aged pride. The gloomy woods
 Start at the flash, and from their deep recess,
 Wide-flaming out, their trembling inmates shake.
 Amid *Carnarvon's* mountains rages loud 1161
 The repercussive roar : with mighty crush,
 Into the flashing deep, from the rude rocks

Of *Penmanmaur* heap'd hideous to the sky,
 Tumble the smitten cliffs ; and *Snowden's* peak, 1165
 Dissolving, instant yields his wintry load.
 Far-seen, the heights of heathy *Cheviot* blaze,
 And *Thulé* bellows thro' her utmost isles.

GUILT hears appall'd, with deeply troubled thought:
 And yet not always on the guilty head 1170
 Descends the fated flash. YOUNG CELADON
 And his AMELIA were a matchless pair ;
 With equal virtue form'd, and equal grace,
 The same, distinguish'd by their sex alone :
 Hers the mild lustre of the blooming morn, 1175
 And his the radiance of the risen day.

THEY lov'd : But such their guileless passion was,
 As in the dawn of time inform'd the heart
 Of innocence, and undissembling truth.
 'Twas friendship heightened by the mutual wish, 1180
 Th' enchanting hope, and sympathetic glow,
 Beam'd from the mutual eye. Devoting all
 To love, each was to each a dearer self ;
 Supremely happy in th' awaken'd power
 Of giving joy. Alone, amid the shades, 1185
 Still in harmonious intercourse they liv'd
 The rural day, and talk'd the flowing heart,
 Or sigh'd, and look'd unutterable things.

So pass'd their life, a clear united stream,
 By care unruffled; till, in evil hour, 1190
 The tempest caught them on the tender walk,
 Heedless how far, and where its mazes stray'd,
 While, with each other blest, creative love
 Still bade eternal *Eden* smile around.
 Heavy with instant fate her bosom heav'd 1195
 Unwonted sighs, and stealing oft a look
 Of the big gloom on CELADON her eye
 Fell tearful, wetting her disordered cheek.'
 In vain assuring love, and confidence 1199
 In HEAVEN, repress'd her fear; it grew, and shook
 Her frame near dissolution. He perceiv'd
 Th' unequal conflict, and as angels look
 On dying faints, his eyes compassion shed,
 With love illumin'd high. "Fear not, he said,
 " Sweet innocence! thou stranger to offence, 1205
 " And inward storm! HE, who yon skies involves
 " In frowns of darkness, ever smiles on thee
 " With kind regard. O'er thee the secret shaft
 " That wastes at midnight, or th' undreaded hour
 " Of noon, flies harmless: and that very voice, 1210
 " Which thunders terror thro' the guilty heart,
 " With tongues of seraphs whispers peace to thine.
 " 'Tis safety to be near thee sure, and thus
 " To clasp perfection!" From his void embrace, 1214
 (Mysterious Heaven!) that moment, to the ground,
 A blacken'd corse, was struck the beauteous maid.

But

But who can paint the lover, as he stood,
 Pierc'd by severe amazement, hating life,
 Speechless, and fix'd in all the death of woe!
 So, faint resemblance, on the marble tomb, 1220
 The well-diffembled mourner stooping stands,
 For ever silent, and for ever sad.

As from the face of heaven the shatter'd clouds
 Tumultuous rove, th' interminable sky
 Sublimier swells, and o'er the world expands 1225
 A purer azure. Nature, from the storm,
 Shines out afresh; and thro' the lighten'd air
 A higher lustre and a clearer calm,
 Diffusive, tremble; while, as if in sign
 Of danger past, a glittering robe of joy, 1230
 Set off abundant by the yellow ray,
 Invests the fields, yet dropping from distress.

'Tis beauty all, and grateful song around,
 Join'd to the low of kine, and numerous bleat
 Of flocks thick-nibbling thro' the clover'd vale. 1235
 And shall the hymn be marr'd by thankless Man,
 Most-favour'd; who with voice articulate
 Should lead the chorus of this lower world?
 Shall he, so soon forgetful of the hand
 That hush'd the thunder, and serenest the sky, 1240
 Extinguish'd feel that spark the tempest wak'd,
 That sense of powers exceeding far his own,
 Ere yet his feeble heart has lost its fears?

CHEAR'D

CHEAR'D by the milder beam, the sprightly youth
 Speeds to the well-known pool, whose crystal depth
 A sandy bottom shews. A while he stands 1246
 Gazing th' inverted landskip, half afraid
 To meditate the blue profound below ;
 Then plunges headlong down the circling flood.
 His ebon tresses, and his rosy cheek 1250
 Instant emerge ; and thro' th' obedient wave,
 At each short breathing by his lip repell'd,
 With arms and legs according well, he makes,
 As humour leads, an easy-winding path ;
 While, from his polish'd fides, a dewy light 1255
 Effuses on the pleas'd spectators round.

THIS is the purest exercise of health,
 The kind refresher of the summer-heats ;
 Nor, when cold Winter keens the brightening flood,
 Would I weak-shivering linger on the brink. 1260
 Thus life redoubles, and is oft preserv'd,
 By the bold swimmer, in the swift illapse
 Of accident disastrous. Hence the limbs
 Knit into force ; and the same *Roman* arm,
 That rose victorious o'er the conquer'd earth, 1265
 First learn'd, while tender, to subdue the wave.
 Even, from the body's purity, the mind
 Receives a secret sympathetic aid.

CLOSE in the covert of an hazle copse,
 Where winded into pleasing solitudes 1270
 Runs

Runs out the rambling dale, young DAMON fat,
Pensive, and pierc'd with love's delightful pangs.
There to the stream that down the distant rocks
Hoarse-murmuring fell, and plaintive breeze that play'd
Among the bending willows, falsely he 1275
Of MUSIDORA's cruelty complain'd.
She felt his flame ; but deep within her breast,
In bashful coyness, or in maiden pride,
The soft return conceal'd ; save when it stole
In side-long glances from her downcast eye, 1280
Or from her swelling soul in stifled sighs.
Touch'd by the scene, no stranger to his vows,
He fram'd a melting lay, to try her heart ;
And, if an infant passion struggled there,
To call that passion forth. Thrice happy swain ! 1285
A lucky chance, that oft decides the fate
Of mighty monarchs, then decided thine.
For lo ! conducted by the laughing Loves,
This cool retreat his MUSIDORA sought :
Warm in her cheek the sultry season glow'd ; 1290
And, robe'd in loose array, she came to bathe
Her fervent limbs in the refreshing stream.
What shall he do ? In sweet confusion lost,
And dubious flutterings, he a while remain'd :
A pure ingenuous elegance of soul, 1295
A delicate refinement, known to few,
Perplex'd his breast, and urg'd him to retire :
But love forbade. Ye prudes in virtue, say,
Say, ye severest, what would you have done ?

Meantime, this fairer nymph than ever blest 1300

Arcadian stream, with timid eye around

The banks surveying, strip'd her beauteous limbs,

To taste the lucid coolness of the flood.

Ah then ! not *Paris* on the piny top

Of *Ida* panted stronger, when aside 1305

The rival-goddeffes the veil divine

Cast unconfin'd, and gave him all their charms,

Than, *DAMON*, thou ; as from the snowy leg,

And slender foot, th' inverted silk she drew ;

As the soft touch dissolv'd the virgin zone ; 1310

And, thro' the parting robe, th' alternate breast,

With youth wild-throbbing, on thy lawless gaze

In full luxuriance rose. But, desperate youth,

How durst thou risque the soul-distracting view ;

As from her naked limbs, of glowing white, 1315

Harmonious swell'd by Nature's finest hand,

In folds loose-floating fell the fainter lawn ;

And fair-expos'd she stood, shrunk from herself,

With fancy blushing, at the doubtful breeze

Alarm'd, and starting like the fearful fawn ? 1320

Then to the flood she rush'd ; the parted flood

Its lovely guest with closing waves receiv'd ;

And every beauty softening, every grace

Flushing anew, a mellow lustre shed :

As shines the lily thro' the crystal mild ; 1325

Or as the rose amid the morning dew,

Fresh from *Aurora's* hand, more sweetly glows.

While thus she wanton'd, now beneath the wave

But

But ill-conceal'd ; and now with streaming locks,
 That half-embrac'd her in a humid veil, 1330
 Rising again, the latent DAMON drew
 Such madning draughts of beauty to the soul,
 As for a while o'erwhelm'd his raptur'd thought
 With luxury too-daring. Check'd, at last,
 By love's respectful modesty, he deem'd 1335
 The theft profane, if aught profane to love
 Can e'er be deem'd ; and, struggling from the shade,
 With headlong hurry fled : but first these lines,
 Trac'd by his ready pencil, on the bank,
 With trembling hand he threw. " Bathe on, my fair,
 " Yet unbeheld save by the sacred eye 1341
 " Of faithful love : I go to guard thy haunt,
 " To keep from thy recess each vagrant foot,
 " And each licentious eye." With wild surprize,
 As if to marble struck, devoid of sense, 1345
 A stupid moment motionless she stood :
 So stands the * statue that enchants the world,
 So bending tries to veil the matchless boast,
 The mingled beauties of exulting *Greece*.
 Recovering, swift she flew to find those robes 1350
 Which blissful *Eden* knew not ; and, array'd
 In careless haste, th' alarming paper snatch'd.
 But, when her DAMON's well-known hand she saw,
 Her terrors vanish'd, and a softer train
 Of mixt emotions, hard to be describ'd, 1355
 Her sudden bosom seiz'd : shame void of guilt,

* The Venus of *Medici*.

The charming blush of innocence, esteem
 And admiration of her lover's flame,
 By modesty exalted : even a sense
 Of self-approving beauty stole across 1360
 Her busy thought. At length, a tender calm
 Hush'd by degrees the tumult of her soul ;
 And on the spreading beech that o'er the stream
 Incumbent hung, she with the silvan pen
 Of rural lovers this confession carv'd, 1365
 Which soon her DAMON kiss'd with weeping joy :
 " Dear youth ! sole judge of what these verses mean,
 " By fortune too much favour'd, but by love,
 " Alas ! not favour'd less, be still as now
 " Discreet: the time may come you need not fly."

THE sun has lost his rage : his downward orb 1371
 Shoots nothing now but animating warmth,
 And vital lustre ; that, with various ray,
 Lights up the clouds, those beauteous robes of heaven,
 Incessant roll'd into romantic shapes, 1375
 The dream of waking fancy ! Broad below,
 Cover'd with ripening fruits, and swelling fast
 Into the perfect year, the pregnant earth
 And all her tribes rejoice. Now the soft hour
 Of walking comes : for him who lonely loves 1380
 To seek the distant hills, and there converse
 With Nature ; there to harmonize his heart,
 And in pathetic song to breathe around
 The harmony to others. Social friends,

S U M M E R.

101

Attun'd to happy unison of soul ; 1385
 'To whose exalting eye a fairer world,
 Of which the vulgar never had a glimpse,
 Displays its charms ; whose minds are richly fraught
 With philosophic stores, superior light ;
 And in whose breast, enthusiastic, burns 1390
 Virtue, the sons of interest deem romance ;
 Now call'd abroad enjoy the falling day :
 Now to the verdant *Portico* of woods,
 To Nature's vast *Lyceum*, forth they walk ;
 By that kind *School* where no proud master reigns, 1395
 The full free converse of the friendly heart,
 Improving and improv'd. Now from the world,
 Sacred to sweet retirement, lovers steal,
 And pour their souls in transport, which the SIRE
 Of love approving hears, and *calls it good*. 1400
 Which way, AMANDA, shall we bend our course ?
 The choice perplexes. Wherefore should we chuse ?
 All is the same with thee: Say, shall we wind
 Along the streams ? or walk the smiling mead ?
 Or court the forest-glades ? or wander wild 1405
 Among the waving harvests ? or ascend,
 While radiant Summer opens all its pride,
 Thy hill, delightful † *Shene* ? Here let us sweep
 The boundless landskip : now the raptur'd eye,
 Exulting swift, to huge AUGUSTA send, 1410

† The old name of *Richmond*, signifying in Saxon, *Shining*,
 or *Splendor*.

Now to the † *Sister-Hills* that skirt her plain,
 'To lofty *Harrow* now, and now to where
 Majestic *Windsor* lifts his princely brow.
 In lovely contrast to this glorious view
 Calmly magnificent, then will we turn 1415
 'To where the silver *THAMES* first rural grows.
 'There let the feasted eye unweary'd stray :
 Luxurious, there, rove thro' the pendant woods
 'That nodding hang o'er *HARRINGTON's* retreat;
 And, stooping thence to *Ham's* embowering walks,
 Beneath whose shades, in spotless peace retir'd, 1421
 With *HER* the pleasing partner of his heart,
 The worthy *QUEENSB'RY* yet laments his *GAY*,
 And polish'd *CORNBURY* wooes the willing Muse,
 Slow let us trace the matchless *VALE OF THAMES*;
 Fair winding up to where the Muses haunt 1426
 In *Twit'nam's* bowers, and for their *POPE* implore
 The healing God ; to royal *Hampton's* pile,
 To *Clermont's* terrass'd height, and *Essex's* groves,
 Where in the sweetest solitude, embrac'd 1430
 By the soft windings of the silent *Mole*,
 From courts and senates *PELHAM* finds repose.
 Inchanting vale ! beyond whate'er the Muse
 Has of *Achaia* or *Hesperia* sung !
 O vale of bliss ! O softly-swelling hills ! 1435
 On which the *Power of Cultivation* lies,
 And joys to see the wonders of his toil.

† *Highgate and Hamstead.*

HEAVENS ! what a goodly prospect spreads around,
 Of hills, and dales, and woods, and lawns, and spires,
 And glittering towns, and gilded streams, till all
 The stretching landskip into smoke decays ! 1441
 Happy BRITANNIA ! where the QUEEN OF ARTS,
 Inspiring vigour, LIBERTY abroad
 Walks, unconfin'd, even to thy farthest cotts,
 And scatters plenty with unsparing hand. 1445

RICH is thy soil, and merciful thy clime ;
 Thy streams unfailing in the summer's drought ;
 Unmatch'd thy guardian-oaks ; thy valleys float
 With golden waves : and on thy mountains flocks
 Bleat numberless ; while, roving round their sides, 1450
 Bellow the blackening herds in lusty droves.
 Beneath, thy meadows glow, and rise unquell'd
 Against the mower's scythe. On every hand
 Thy villas shine. Thy country teems with wealth ;
 And property assures it to the swain, 1455
 Pleas'd, and unwearied, in his guarded toil.

FULL are thy cities with the fons of art ;
 And trade and joy, in every busy street,
 Mingling are heard : even Drudgery himself,
 As at the car he sweats, or dusty hews 1460
 The palace-stone, looks gay. Thy crouded ports,
 Where rising masts an endless prospect yield,
 With labour burn, and echo to the shouts

Of hurry'd sailor, as he hearty waves
 His last adieu, and loosening every sheet, 1465
 Relinquish the spreading vessel to the wind.

BOLD, firm, and graceful, are thy generous youth,
 By hardship sinew'd, and by danger fir'd,
 Scattering the nations where they go; and first
 Or on the list'd plain, or stormy seas. 1470
 Mild are thy glories too, as o'er the plans
 Of thriving peace thy thoughtful fires preside;
 In genius, and substantial learning, high;
 For every virtue, every worth, renown'd;
 Sincere, plain hearted, hospitable, kind; 1475
 Yet like the mustering thunder when provok'd,
 The dread of tyrants, and the sole resource
 Of those that under grim oppression groan.

THY SONS OF GLORY many! ALFRED thine,
 In whom the splendor of heroic war, 1480
 And more heroic peace, when govern'd well,
 Combine; whose hallowed name the virtues faint,
 And *his own* Muses love; the best of *Kings*!
 With him thy EDWARDS and thy HENRYS shine,
 Names dear to fame; the first who deep impress'd
 On haughty *Gaul* the terror of thy arms, 1486
 That awes her genius still. In *Statesmen* thou,
 And *Patriots*, fertile. 'Thine a steady MORE,
 Who, with a generous tho' mistaken zeal,
 Withstood a brutal tyrant's useful rage, 1490
 Like

Like CATO firm, like ARISTIDES just,
 Like rigid CINCINNATUS nobly poor,
 A dauntless soul erect, who smil'd on death.
 Frugal, and wise, a WALSINGHAM is thine; 1494
 A DRAKE, who made thee mistress of the deep,
 And bore thy name in thunder round the world.
 Then flam'd thy spirit high : but who can speak
 'The numerous worthies of the MAIDEN-REIGN ?
 In RALEIGH mark their every glory mix'd ; 1499
 RALEIGH, the scourge of *Spain* ! whose breast with all
 'The sage, the patriot, and the hero burn'd.
 Nor sunk his vigour, when a coward-reign
 The warrior fettered, and at last resign'd,
 To glut the vengeance of a vanquish'd foe.
 Then, active still and unrestrain'd, his mind 1505
 Explor'd the vast extent of ages past,
 And with his prison-hours enrich'd the world ;
 Yet found no times, in all the long research,
 So glorious, or so base, as those he prov'd,
 In which he conquer'd, and in which he bled. 1510
 Nor can the Muse the gallant SIDNEY pass,
 The plume of war ! with early laurels crown'd,
 The Lover's myrtle, and the poet's bay.
 A HAMPDEN too is thine, illustrious land,
 Wise, strenuous, firm, of unsubmitting soul, 1515
 Who stem'd the torrent of a downward age
 To slavery prone, and bade thee rise again,
 In all thy native pomp of freedom bold.
 Bright, at his call, thy age of *Men* effulg'd,

Of Men on whom late time a kindling eye 1520
 Shall turn, and tyrants tremble while they read.
 Bring every sweetest flower, and let me strew
 The grave where RUSSEL lies ; whose temper'd blood
 With calmest chearfulness for thee resign'd,
 Stain'd the sad annals of a giddy reign ; 1525
 Aiming at lawless power, tho' meanly sunk
 In loose inglorious luxury. With him
 His friend, the † BRITISH CASSIUS, fearless bled ;
 Of high determin'd spirit, roughly brave,
 By antient learning to th' enlighten'd love 1530
 Of ancient freedom warm'd. Fair thy renown
 In awful *Sages* and in noble *Bards* ;
 Soon as the light of dawning Science spread
 Her orient ray, and wake'd the Muses' song.
 Thine is a BACON, hapless in his choice ; 1535
 Unfit to stand the civil storm of state,
 And thro' the smooth barbarity of courts,
 With firm but pliant virtue, forward still
 To urge his course. Him for the studious shade
 Kind Nature form'd, deep, comprehensive, clear,
 Exact, and elegant ; in one rich soul, 1541
 PLATO, the STAGYRITE, and TULLY join'd.
 The great deliverer he ! who from the gloom
 Of cloister'd monks, and jargon-teaching schools,
 Led forth the true philosophy, there long 1545
 Held in the magic chain of words and forms,
 And definitions void : he led her forth,

† ALGERNON SIDNEY.

Daughter

Daughter of HEAVEN! that slow-ascending fill,
 Investigating sure the chain of things,
 With radiant finger points to HEAVEN again. 1550
 The generous * ASHLEY thine, the friend of Man;
 Who scann'd his Nature with a brother's eye,
 His weakness prompt to shade, to raise his aim,
 To touch the finer movements of the mind,
 And with the *moral beauty* charm the heart. 1555
 Why need I name thy BOYLE, whose pious search
 Amid the dark recesses of his works,
 The great CREATOR fought? And why thy LOCKE,
 Who made the whole internal world his own?
 Let NEWTON, *pure intelligence*, whom GOD 1560
 To mortals lent, to trace his boundless works
 From laws sublimely simple, speak thy fame
 In all Philosophy. For lofty sense,
 Creative fancy, and inspection keen
 Thro' the deep windings of the human heart, 1565
 Is not wild SHAKESPEAR thine and Nature's boast?
 Is not each great, each amiable Muse
 Of classic ages in thy MILTON met?
 A genius universal as his theme;
 Astonishing as Chaos, as the bloom 1570
 Of blowing Eden fair, as Heaven sublime.
 Nor shall my verse that elder bard forget,
 The gentle SPENCER, Fancy's pleasing son;
 Who like a copious river, pour'd his song

* ANTHONY ASHLEY COOPER, Earl of *Skeffsbury*.

O'er all the mazes of enchanted ground : 1575
 Nor thee, his antient Master, laughing sage,
 CHAUCER, whose native manners-painting verse,
 Well-moraliz'd, shines thro' the Gothic cloud
 Of time and language o'er thy genius thrown.

MAY my song soften, as thy DAUGHTERS I, 1580
 BRITANNIA, hail ! for beauty is their own,
 The feeling heart, simplicity of life,
 And elegance, and taste : the faultless form,
 Shap'd by the hand of harmony ; the cheek,
 Where the live crimson, thro' the native white 1585
 Soft-shooting, o'er the face diffuses bloom,
 And every nameless grace ; the parted lip,
 Like the red rose-bud moist with morning-dew,
 Breathing delight ; and, under flowing jet,
 Or sunny ringlets, or of circling brown, 1590
 'The neck slight-shaded, and the swelling breast ;
 The look resistless, piercing to the soul,
 And by the soul inform'd, when dress'd in love
 She sits high-smiling in the conscious eye.

ISLAND of bliss ! amid the subject seas, 1595
 That thunder round thy rocky coasts, set up,
 At once the wonder, terror, and delight,
 Of distant nations ; whose remotest shores
 Can soon be shaken by thy naval arm ;
 Not to be shook thy self, but all assaults 1600
 Baffling, as thy hoar cliffs the loud sea-wave.

O THOU ! by whose almighty *Nod* the scale
 Of empire rises, or alternate falls,
 Send forth the saving VIRTUES round the land,
 In bright patrol : white *Peace*, and social *Love* ;
 The tender-looking *Charity*, intent 1606
 On gentle deeds, and shedding tears thro' smiles ;
 Undaunted *Truth*, and *Dignity* of mind ;
Courage compos'd, -and keen ; sound *Temperance*,
 Healthful in heart and look ; clear *Chastity*, 1610
 With blushes reddening as she moves along,
 Disordered at the deep regard she draws ;
 Rough *Industry* ; *Activity* untir'd,
 With copious life inform'd, and all awake :
 While in the radiant front, superior shines 1615
 That first paternal virtue, *Public Zed* ;
 Who throws o'er all an equal wide survey,
 And, ever musing on the common weal,
 Still labours glorious with some great design. 1619

Low walks the sun, and broadens by degrees,
 Just o'er the verge of day. The shifting clouds
 Assembled gay, a richly-gorgeous train,
 In all their pomp attend his setting throne.
 Air, earth and ocean smile immense. And now,
 As if his weary chariot fought the bowers 1625
 Of *Amphitrite*, and her tending nymphs,
 (So *Grecian* fable sung) he dips his orb ;
 Now half-immers'd ; and now a golden curve
 Gives

Gives one bright glance, then total disappears.

FOR ever running an enchanted round, 1630
 Passes the day, deceitful, vain, and void ;
 As fleets the vision o'er the formful brain,
 This moment hurrying wild th' impassion'd soul,
 The next in nothing lost. 'Tis so to him,
 The dreamer of this earth, an idle blank : 1635
 A sight of horror to the cruel wretch,
 Who all day long in fordid pleasure roll'd,
 Himself an useless load, has squander'd vile,
 Upon his scoundrel train, what might have chear'd
 A drooping family of modest worth. 1640
 But to the generous still-improving mind,
 That gives the hopeless heart to sing for joy,
 Diffusing kind beneficence around,
 Boastless, as now descends the silent dew ;
 To him the long review of order'd life 1645
 Is inward rapture, only to be felt.

CONFESS'D from yonder flow-extinguish'd clouds,
 All ether softening, sober *Evening* takes
 Her wonted station in the middle air ;
 A thousand *shadows* at her beck. First *this* 1650
 She sends on earth ; then *that* of deeper dye
 Steals soft behind ; and then a *deeper* still,
 In circle following circle, gathers round,
 To close the face of things. A fresher gale
 Begins to wave the wood, and stir the stream, 1655
 Sweeping

S U M M E R.

III

Sweeping with shadowy gust the fields of corn ;
 While the quail clamours for his running mate.
 Wide o'er the thistly lawn, as swells the breeze,
 A whitening shower of vegetable down
 Amusive floats. The kind impartial care 1660
 Of Nature nought disdains : thoughtful to feed
 Her lowest sons, and clothe the coming year,
 From field to field the feathered seeds she wings.

His folded flock secure, the shepherd home
 Hies, merry-hearted ; and by turns relieves 1665
 The ruddy milk-maid of her brimming pail ;
 The beauty whom perhaps his witlefs heart,
 Unknowing what the joy-mixt anguish means,
 Sincerely loves, by that best language shewn
 Of cordial glances, and obliging deeds. 1670
 Onward they pass, o'er many a panting height,
 And valley sunk, and unfrequented ; where
 At fall of eve the fairy people throng.
 In various game, and revelry to pass
 The summer-night, as village-stories tell. 1675
 But far about they wander from the grave
 Of him, whom his ungentle fortune urg'd
 Against his own sad breast to lift the hand
 Of impious violence. The lonely tower
 Is also shun'd ; whose mournful chambers hold, 1680
 So night-struck Fancy dreams, the yelling ghost.

AMONG

AMONG the crooked lanes, on every hedge,
 The glow-worm lights his gem ; and, thro' the dark,
 A moving radiance twinkles. *Evening* yields
 The world to *Night* ; not in her winter-robe 1685
 Of massy Stygian woof, but loose array'd
 In mantle dun. A faint erroneous ray,
 Glanc'd from th' imperfect surfaces of things,
 Flings half an image on the straining eye ; 1689
 While wavering woods, and villages, and streams,
 And rocks, and mountain-tops, that long retain'd
 Th' ascending gleam, are all one swimming scene,
 Uncertain if beheld. Sudden to heaven
 Thence weary vision turns ; where, leading soft
 The silent hours of love, with purest ray 1695
 Sweet *Venus* shines ; and from her genial rise,
 When day-light sickens till it springs afresh,
 Unrival'd reigns, the fairest lamp of night.
 As thus th' effulgence tremulous I drink, 1699
 With cherish'd gaze, the lambent lightnings shoot
 Across the sky ; or horizontal dart,
 In wondrous shapes : by fearful murmuring crouds
 Portentous deem'd. Amid the radiant orbs,
 That more than deck, that animate the sky,
 The life-infusing suns of other worlds ; 1705
 Lo ! from the dead immensity of space
 Returning, with accelerated course,
 The rushing comet to the sun descends ;
 And as he sinks below the shading earth,

With

S U M M E R.

113

With awful train projected o'er the heavens, 1710
 The guilty nations tremble. But, above
 Those superstitious horrors that enslave
 The fond sequacious herd, to mystic faith
 And blind amazement prone, the enlightened few,
 Whose god-like minds philosophy exalts, 1715
 The glorious stranger hail. They feel a joy
 Divinely great ; they in their powers exult,
 That wondrous force of thought, which mounting spurns
 This dusky spot, and measures all the sky ;
 While, from his far excursion thro' the wilds 1720
 Of barren ether, faithful to his time,
 They see the blazing wonder rise anew,
 In seeming terror clad, but kindly bent
 To work the will of all-sustaining Love :
 From his huge vapoury train perhaps to shake 1725
 Reviving moisture on the numerous orbs,
 Thro' which his long ellipsis winds ; perhaps
 To lend new fuel to declining suns,
 To light up worlds, and feed th' eternal fire. 1729

With thee, serene PHILOSOPHY, with thee,
 And thy bright garland, let me crown my song !
 Effusive source of evidence, and truth !
 A lustre shedding o'er th' ennobled mind,
 Stronger than summer-noon ; and pure as that,
 Whose mild vibrations sooth the parted soul, 1735
 New to the dawning of celestial day.
 Hence thro' her nourish'd powers, enlarg'd by thee,
 • She

She springs aloft, with elevated pride,
 Above the tangling mafs of low defires, 1739
 That bind the fluttering crowd; and, angel-wing'd,
 The heights of fcience and of virtue gains,
 Where all is calm and clear; with Nature round,
 Or in the ftarry regions, or th' abyfs,
 To Reason's and to Fancy's eye display'd :
 The *First* up-tracing, from the dreary void, 1745
 The chain of caufes and effects to HIM,
 The world-producing ESSENCE, who alone
 Poffeffes being; while the *Last* receives
 The whole magnificence of heaven and earth,
 And every beauty, delicate or bold, 1750
 Obvious or more remote, with livelier fenfe,
 Diffufive painted on the rapid mind.

TUTOR'D by thee, hence POETRY exalts
 Her voice to ages; and informs the page
 With mufic, image, fentiment, and thought, 1755
 Never to die! the treasure of mankind!
 Their higheft honour, and their trueft joy!

WITHOUT thee what were unenlightened Man?
 A favage roaming thro' the woods and wilds,
 In queft of prey; and with th' unfafhioned furr 1760
 Rough-clad; devoid of every finer art,
 And elegance of life. Nor happinefs
 Domeftic, mix'd of tendernefs and care,
 Nor moral excellence, nor focial blifs,

Nor

S U M M E R.

115

Nor guardian law were his ; nor various skill 1765

To turn the furrow, or to guide the tool

Mechanic ; nor the heaven-conducted prow

Of navigation bold, that fearless braves

The burning line or dares the wintry pole ;

Mother severe of infinite delights !

1770

Nothing, save rapine, indolence, and guile,

And woes on woes, a still-revolving train !

Whose horrid circle had made human life

Than non-existence worse : but, taught by thee,

Ours are the plans of policy, and peace ;

1775

To live like brothers, and conjunctive all

Embellish life. While thus laborious crowds

Ply the tough oar, PHILOSOPHY directs

The ruling helm ; or like the liberal breath

Of potent Heaven, invisible, the sail

1780

Swells out, and bears th' inferior world along.

Nor to this evanescent speck of earth

Poorly confin'd, the radiant tracts on high

Are her exalted range ; intent to gaze

Creation thro' ; and, from that full complex 1785

Of never-ending wonders, to conceive

Of the SOLE BEING right, who *s**p**oke* the Word,

And Nature mov'd compleat. With inward view,

Thence on th' ideal kingdom swift she turns

Her eye ; and instant, at her powerful glance, 1790

Th' obedient phantoms vanish or appear ;

Compound, divide, and into order shift,

Each

Each to his rank, from plain perception up
To the fair forms of Fancy's fleeting train :
To reason then, deducing truth from truth ; 1795
And notion quite abstract ; where first begins
The world of spirits, action all, and life
Unfetter'd, and unmix'd. But here the cloud,
So wills ETERNAL PROVIDENCE, sits deep.
Enough for us to know that this dark state, 1800
In wayward passions lost, and vain pursuits,
This Infancy of Being, cannot prove
The final issue of the works of God,
By boundless LOVE and perfect WISDOM form'd,
And ever rising with the rising mind. 1805

AUTUMN.



W. Kent inv. et del.

T. P. Fourdrinier Sculp.

AUTUMN.

A U T U M N.

THE ARGUMENT.

The subject proposed. Address to Mr. ONSLOW. A prospect of the fields ready for harvest. Reflexions in praise of industry rais'd by that view. Reaping. A tale relative to it. A harvest storm. Shooting and hunting, their barbarity. A view of an orchard. Wall-fruit. A vineyard. A description of fogs, frequent in the latter part of Autumn: whence a digression, enquiring into the rise of fountains and rivers. Birds of season considered, that now shift their habitation. The prodigious number of them that cover the northern and western isles of SCOTLAND. Hence a view of the country. A prospect of the discoloured, fading woods. After a gentle dusky day, moon-light. Autumnal meteors. Morning: to which succeeds a calm, pure, sun-shiny day, such as usually shuts up the season. The harvest being gathered in, the country dissolv'd in joy. The whole concludes with a panegyric on a philosophical country life.

A U T U M N.

CROWN'D with the fickle, and the wheaten sheaf,
 While AUTUMN, nodding o'er the yellow plain,
 Comes jovial on ; the *Doric* reed once more,
 Well-pleas'd, I tune. Whate'er the wintry frost
 Nitrous prepar'd ; the various blossom'd Spring 5
 Put in white promise forth ; and Summer suns
 Concocted strong, rush boundless now to view,
 Full, perfect all, and swell my glorious theme.

ON SLOW ! the Muse, ambitious of thy name,
 To grace, inspire, and dignify her song, 10
 Would from the *Public Voice* thy gentle ear
 A while engage. Thy noble cares she knows,
 The patriot-virtues that distend thy thought,
 Spread on thy front, and in thy bosom glow ;
 While listening senates hang upon thy tongue, 15
 Devolving thro' the maze of eloquence
 A rowl of periods, sweeter than her song.
 But she too pants for public virtue, she,
 Tho' weak of power yet strong in ardent will,
 Whene'er

Whene'er her country rushes on her heart, 20
 Assumes a bolder note, and fondly tries
 To mix the patriot's with the poet's flame.

WHEN the bright *Virgin* gives the beauteous days,
 And *Libra* weighs in equal scales the year ;
 From heaven's high cope the fierce effulgence shook
 Of parting Summer, a serener blue, 26
 With golden light enlivened wide invests
 The happy world. Attemper'd suns arise,
 Sweet-beam'd, and shedding oft thro' lucid clouds
 A pleasing calm ; while broad, and brown, below 30
 Extensive harvests hang the heavy head.
 Rich, silent, deep, they stand ; for not a gale
 Rolls its light billows o'er the bending plain :
 A calm of plenty ! till the ruffled air
 Falls from its poise, and gives the breeze to blow. 35
 Rent is the fleecy mantle of the sky ;
 The clouds fly different ; and the sudden sun
 By fits effulgent gilds th' illumin'd field,
 And black by fits the shadows sweep along.
 A gayly-checker'd heart-expanding view, 40
 Far as the circling eye can shoot around,
 Unbounded tossing in a flood of corn.

THESE are thy blessings, INDUSTRY ! rough power !
 Whom labour still attends, and sweat, and pain ;
 Yet the kind source of every gentle art, 45
 And all the soft civility of life :

Raifer

Raifer of human kind ! by Nature caft,
 Naked, and helpiefs, out amid the woods
 And wilds, to rude inclement elements ;
 With various feeds of art deep in the mind 50
 Implanted, and profufely pour'd around
 Materials infinite ; but idle all.
 Still unexerted, in th' unconfcious breaft,
 Slept the lethargic powers ; corruption ftill,
 Voracious, fwallowed what the liberal hand 55
 Of bounty fcatter'd o'er the favage year :
 And ftill the fad barbarian, roving, mix'd
 With beafts of prey ; or for his acorn-meal
 Fought the fierce tufky boar ; a fhivering wretch !
 Aghaft, and comfortlefs, when the bleak north, 60
 With Winter charg'd, let the mix'd tempeft fly,
 Hail, rain, and fnow, and bitter-breathing froft :
 Then to the fhelter of the hut he fled ;
 And the wild feafon, fordid, pin'd away.
 For home he had not ; home is the refort 65
 Of love, of joy, of peace and plenty, where,
 Supporting and fupported, polifh'd friends,
 And dear relations mingle into blifs.
 But this the rugged favage never felt,
 Even defolate in crouds ; and thus his days 70
 Roll'd heavy, dark, and unenjoy'd along :
 A wafte of time ! till INDUSTRY approach'd,
 And rous'd him from his miferable floth :
 His faculties unfolded ; pointed out,
 Where lavish Nature the directing hand 75
 Vol. I. G Of

Of Art demanded ; shew'd him how to raise
 His feeble force by the mechanic powers,
 To dig the mineral from the vaulted earth,
 On what to turn the piercing rage of fire,
 On what the torrent, and the gather'd blast ; 80
 Gave the tall ancient forest to his ax ;
 Taught him to chip the wood, and hew the stone,
 Till by degrees the finish'd fabric rose ;
 Tore from his limbs the blood-polluted fur,
 And wrapt them in the woolly vestment warm, 85
 Or bright in glossy silk, and flowing lawn ;
 With wholesome viands fill'd his table, pour'd
 The generous glass around, inspir'd to wake
 The life-refining soul of decent wit :
 Nor stopp'd at barren bare necessity ; 90
 But still advancing bolder, led him on,
 To pomp, to pleasure, elegance and grace ;
 And, breathing high ambition thro' his soul,
 Set science, wisdom, glory, in his view,
 And bad him be the *Lord* of all below. 95

THEN gathering Men their natural powers com-
 bin'd,

And form'd a *Public* ; to the general good
 Submitting, aiming, and conducting all.
 For this the *Patriot-Council* met, the full,
 The free, and fairly represented *Whole* ; 100
 For this they plann'd the holy guardian laws,
 Distinguish'd orders, animated arts,

And

A U T U M N.

123

And with joint force *Oppression* chaining, set
Imperial Justice at the helm ; yet still
 To them accountable : nor slavish dream'd 105
 That toiling millions must resign their weal,
 And all the honey of their search, to such
 As for themselves alone themselves have rais'd.

HENCE every form of cultivated life
 In order set, protected, and inspir'd, 110
 Into perfection wrought. Uniting all,
 Society grew numerous, high, polite,
 And happy. Nurse of art ! the city rear'd
 In beauteous pride her tower-encircled head ;
 And, stretching street on street, by thousands drew,
 From twining woody haunts, or the tough yew 116
 To bows strong-straining, her aspiring sons.

THEN COMMERCE brought into the public walk
 The busy merchant ; the big ware-house built ; 119
 Rais'd the strong crane ; choak'd up the loaded street
 With foreign plenty ; and thy stream, O THAMES,
 Large, gentle, deep, majestic, king of floods !
 Chose for his grand resort. On either hand,
 Like a long wintry forest, groves of masts
 Shot up their spires ; the bellying sheet between 125
 Possess'd the breezy void ; the footy hulk
 Steer'd sluggish on ; the splendid barge along
 Row'd, regular, to harmony ; around,
 The boat, light-skimming, stretch'd its oary wings ;

While deep the various voice of fervent toil 130
 From bank to bank increas'd; whence ribb'd with oak,
 To bear the BRITISH THUNDER, black, and bold,
 'The roaring vessel rush'd into the main.

THEN too the pillar'd dome, magnific, heav'd
 Its ample roof; and luxury within 135
 Pour'd out her glittering stores: the canvas smooth,
 With glowing life protuberant, to the view
 Embodied rose; the statue seem'd to breathe,
 And soften into flesh, beneath the touch
 Of forming art, imagination-flush'd. 140

ALL is the gift of INDUSTRY; whate'er
 Exalts, embellishes, and renders life
 Delightful. Pensive Winter chear'd by him
 Sits at the social fire, and happy hears
 'Th' excluded tempest idly rave along; 145
 His harden'd fingers deck the gaudy Spring;
 Without him Summer were an arid waste;
 Nor to th' autumnal months could thus transmit
 Those full, mature, immeasurable stores,
 That, waving round, recal my wandering song. 150

SOON as the morning trembles o'er the sky,
 And, unperceiv'd, unfolds the spreading day;
 Before the ripened field the reapers stand,
 In fair array; each by the lass he loves,
 To bear the rougher part, and mitigate 155
 By

By nameless gentle offices her toil.
 At once they stoop and swell the lustrous sheaves ;
 While thro' their chearful band the rural talk,
 The rural scandal and the rural jest,
 Fly harmless, to deceive the tedious time, 160
 And steal unfelt the sultry hours away.
 Behind the master walks, builds up the flocks ;
 And, conscious, glancing oft on every side
 His fated eye, feels his heart heave with joy.
 The gleaners spread around, and here and there,
 Spike after spike, their sparing harvest pick. 166
 Be not too narrow, husbandmen ! but sling
 From the full sheaf, with charitable stealth,
 The liberal handful. Think, oh grateful think !
 How good the God of HARVEST is to you ; 170
 Who pours abundance o'er your flowing fields ;
 While these unhappy partners of your kind
 Wide-hover round you, like the fowls of heaven,
 And ask their humble dole. The various turns
 Of fortune ponder ; that your sons may want 175
 What now, with hard reluctance, faint, ye give.

THE lovely young LAVINIA once had friends ;
 And Fortune smil'd, deceitful, on her birth.
 For in her helpless years depriv'd of all,
 Of every stay, save Innocence and HEAVEN, 180
 She with her widow-mother, feeble, old,
 And poor, liv'd in a cottage, far retir'd
 Among the windings of a woody vale ;

By solitude and deep surrounding shades,
 But more by bashful modesty, conceal'd. 185
 Together thus they shunn'd the cruel scorn
 Which virtue, sunk to poverty, would meet
 From giddy passion and low-minded pride :
 Almost on Nature's common bounty fed ;
 Like the gay birds that sung them to repose, 190
 Content, and careless of to-morrow's fare.
 Her form was fresher than the morning rose,
 When the dew wets its leaves ; unstain'd, and pure,
 As is the lily, or the mountain snow.
 The modest virtues mingled in her eyes, 195
 Still on the ground dejected, darting all
 Their humid beams into the blooming flowers :
 Or when the mournful tale her mother told,
 Of what her faithless fortune promis'd once,
 'Thrill'd in her thought, they, like the dewy star 200
 Of evening, shone in tears. A native grace
 Sat fair-proportion'd on her polish'd limbs,
 Veil'd in a simple robe, their best attire,
 Beyond the pomp of dress ; for loveliness
 Needs not the foreign aid of ornament, 205
 But is when unadorn'd adorn'd the most.
 Thoughtless of beauty, she was beauty's self,
 Recluse amid the close-embowering woods.
 As in the hollow breast of *Appenine*,
 Beneath the shelter of encircling hills, 210
 A myrtle rises, far from human eye,
 And breathes its balmy fragrance o'er the wild ;
 So

A U T U M N.

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So flourish'd blooming, and unseen by all,
 The sweet LAVINIA ; till, at length, compell'd
 By strong Necessity's supreme command, 215
 With smiling patience in her looks, she went
 To glean PALEMON's fields. The pride of swains
 PALEMON was, the generous, and the rich ;
 Who led the rural life in all its joy
 And elegance, such as *Arcadian* song 220
 Transmits from ancient uncorrupted times ;
 When tyrant custom had not shackled Man,
 But free to follow Nature was the mode.
 He then, his fancy with autumnal scenes
 Amusing, chanc'd beside his reaper-train 225
 To walk, when poor LAVINIA drew his eye ;
 Unconscious of her power, and turning quick
 With unaffected blushes from his gaze :
 He saw her charming, but he saw not half
 The charms her down-cast modesty conceal'd. 230
 That very moment love and chaste desire
 Sprung in his bosom, to himself unknown ;
 For still the world prevail'd, and its dread laugh,
 Which scarce the firm philosopher can scorn,
 Should his heart own a gleaner in the field. 235
 And thus in secret to his soul he sigh'd.

“ WHAT pity ! that so delicate a form,
 “ By beauty kindled, where enlivening sense
 “ And more than vulgar goodness seem to dwell,
 “ Should be devoted to the rude embrace 240

" Of some indecent clown ! She looks, methinks,
 " Of old ACASIO's line ; and to my mind
 " Recalls that patron of my happy life,
 " From whom my liberal fortune took its rise ;
 " Now to the dust gone down ; his houses, lands,
 " And once fair-spreading family dissolv'd. 246
 " 'Tis said that in some lone obscure retreat,
 " Urg'd by remembrance sad, and decent pride,
 " Far from those scenes which knew their better days,
 " His aged widow and his daughter live, 250
 " Whom yet my fruitless search could never find.
 " Romantic wish ! would this the daughter were !"

WHEN, strict enquiring, from herself he found
 She was the same, the daughter of his friend,
 Of bountiful ACASIO ; who can speak 255
 The mingled passions that surpriz'd his heart,
 And thro' his nerves in shivering transport ran ?
 Then blaz'd his smother'd flame, avow'd, and bold ;
 And as he view'd her, ardent, o'er and o'er,
 Love, gratitude, and pity wept at once. 260
 Confus'd, and frighten'd at his sudden tears,
 Her rising beauties flush'd a higher bloom,
 As thus PALEMON, passionate, and just,
 Pour'd out the pious rapture of his soul. 264

" AND art thou then ACASIO's dear remains ?
 " She, whom my restless gratitude has sought,
 " So long in vain ? O yes ! the very same,

" The

A U T U M N.

129

" The softened image of my noble friend,
 " Alive, his every feature, every look, 269
 " More elegantly touch'd. Sweeter than Spring!
 " Thou sole surviving blossom from the root
 " That nourish'd up my fortune! Say, ah where,
 " In what sequester'd desert, hast thou drawn
 " The kindest aspect of delighted heaven?
 " Into such beauty spread, and blown so fair; 275
 " Tho' poverty's cold wind, and crushing rain,
 " Beat keen, and heavy, on thy tender years?
 " O let me now, into a richer soil,
 " Transplant thee safe! where vernal suns, and
 " showers,
 " Diffuse their warmest, largest influence; 280
 " And of my garden be the pride, and joy!
 " Ill it befits thee, oh it ill befits
 " ACASIO's daughter, his whose open stores,
 " Tho' vast, were little to his ampler heart,
 " The father of a country, thus to pick 285
 " The very refuse of those harvest-fields,
 " Which from his bounteous friendship I enjoy.
 " Then throw that shameful pittance from thy hand,
 " But ill apply'd to such a rugged task;
 " The fields, the master, all, my fair, are thine;
 " If to the various blessings which thy house 291
 " Has on me lavish'd, thou wilt add that bliss,
 " That dearest bliss, the power of blessing thee!"

HERE ceas'd the youth : yet still his speaking eye
 Express'd the sacred triumph of his soul, 295
 With conscious virtue, gratitude, and love,
 Above the vulgar joy divinely rais'd.
 Nor waited he reply. Won by the charm
 Of goodness irresistible, and all
 In sweet disorder lost, she blush'd consent. 300
 The news immediate to her mother brought,
 While, pierc'd with anxious thought, she pin'd away
 The lonely moments for LAVINIA's fate ;
 Amaz'd, and scarce believing what she heard, 304
 Joy seiz'd her wither'd veins, and one bright gleam
 Of setting life shone on her evening-hours :
 Not less enraptur'd than the happy pair ;
 Who flourish'd long in tender bliss, and rear'd
 A numerous offspring, lovely like themselves,
 And good, the grace of all the country round. 310

DEFEATING oft the labours of the year,
 The sultry south collects a potent blast.
 At first, the groves are scarcely seen to stir
 Their trembling tops ; and a still murmur runs
 Along the soft-inclining fields of corn. 315
 But as th' ærial tempest fuller swells,
 And in one mighty stream, invisible,
 Immense, the whole excited atmosphere,
 Impetuous rushes o'er the sounding world ;
 Strain'd to the root, the slooping forest pours 320
 A

A rustling shower of yet untimely leaves.
High-beat, the circling mountains eddy in,
From the bare wild, the dissipated storm,
And send it in a torrent down the vale.
Expos'd, and naked, to its utmost rage, 325
'Thro' all the sea of harvest rolling round,
The billowy plain floats wide ; nor can evade,
Tho' pliant to the blast, its seizing force ;
Or whirl'd in air, or into vacant chaff
Shook waste. And sometimes too a burst of rain,
Swept from the black horizon, broad, descends 331
In one continuous flood. Still over head
The mingling tempest weaves its gloom, and still
The deluge deepens ; till the fields around
Lie sunk, and flatted, in the fordid wave. 335
Sudden, the ditches swell ; the meadows swim.
Red, from the hills, innumerable streams
Tumultuous rear ; and high above its banks
The river lift ; before whose rushing tide, 339
Herds, flocks, and harvests, cottages, and swains,
Roll mingled down ; all that the winds had spar'd
In one wild moment ruin'd ; the big hopes,
And well-earn'd treasures of the painful year.
Fled to some eminence, the husbandman
Helpless beholds the miserable wreck 345
Driving along ; his drowning ox at once
Descending, with his labours scatter'd round,
He sees ; and instant o'er his shivering thought
Comes Winter unprovided, and a train

Of clamant children dear. Ye masters, then, 350
 Be mindful of the rough laborious hand,
 That sinks you soft in elegance and ease;
 Be mindful of those limbs in russet clad,
 Whose toil to yours is warmth, and graceful pride;
 And oh be mindful of that sparing board, 355
 Which covers yours with luxury profuse,
 Makes your glass sparkle, and your sense rejoice!
 Nor cruelly demand what the deep rains,
 And all-involving winds have swept away. 359

HERE the rude clamour of the sportsman's joy,
 The gun fast-thundering, and the winded horn,
 Would tempt the Muse to sing the *rural Game* :
 How, in his mid-career, the spaniel struck,
 Stiff, by the tainted gale, with open nose,
 Outstretch'd, and finely sensible, *draws* full, 365
 Fearful, and cautious, on the latent prey;
 As in the sun the circling covey bask
 Their varied plumes, and watchful every way
 Thro' the rough stubble turn the secret eye.
 Caught in the meshy snare, in vain they beat 370
 Their idle wings, intangled more and more :
 Nor on the surges of the boundless air,
 Tho' borne triumphant, are they safe; the gun,
 Glanc'd just, and sudden, from the fowler's eye
 O'ertakes their sounding pinions; and again, 375
 Immediate, brings them from the towering wing,
 Dead

Dead to the ground ; or drives them wide-dispers'd,
Wounded, and wheeling various, down the wind.

THESE are not subjects for the peaceful Muse,
Nor will she stain with such her spotless song ; 380
Then most delighted, when she social sees
The whole mix'd animal-creation round
Alive, and happy. 'Tis not joy to her,
This falsely-chearful barbarous game of death ;
This rage of pleasure, which the restless youth 385
Awakes, impatient, with the gleaming morn ;
When beasts of prey retire, that all night long,
Urg'd by necessity, had rang'd the dark,
As if their conscious ravage shun'd the light,
Asham'd. Not so the steady tyrant Man, 390
Who with the thoughtless insolence of power,
Inflam'd, beyond the most infuriate wrath
Of the worst monster that e'er roam'd the waste,
For sport alone pursues the cruel chace,
Amid the beamings of the gentle days. 395
Upbraid, ye ravening tribes, our wanton rage,
For hunger kindles you, and lawless want ;
But lavish fed, in Nature's bounty roll'd,
To joy at anguish, and delight in blood,
Is what your horrid bosoms never knew. 400

Poor is the triumph o'er the timid hare !
Scar'd from the corn, and now to some lone feat
Retir'd ; the rushy fen ; the ragged furze,

Stretch'd

Stretch'd o'er the stony heath ; the stubble chapt ;
 The thistly lawn ; the thick entangled broom ; 405
 Of the same friendly hue, the wither'd fern ;
 The fallow ground laid open to the sun,
 Concoctive ; and the nodding sandy bank,
 Hung o'er the mazes of the mountain brook.
 Vain is her best precaution ; tho' she fits 410
 Conceal'd, with folded ears ; unsleeping eyes,
 By Nature rais'd to take th' horizon in ;
 And head couch'd close betwixt her hairy feet,
 In act to spring away. The scented dew
 Betrays her early labyrinth ; and deep, 415
 In scatter'd fullen openings, far behind,
 With every breeze she hears the coming storm.
 But nearer, and more frequent, as it loads
 The sighing gale, she springs amaz'd, and all
 The savage soul of game is up at once : 420
 The pack full-opening, various ; the shrill horn,
 Refounded from the hills ; the neighing steed,
 Wild for the chace ; and the loud hunter's shout ;
 O'er a weak, harmless, flying creature, all
 Mix'd in mad tumult, and discordant joy. 425

THE stag too, singled from the herd, where long
 He rang'd the branching monarch of the shades,
 Before the tempest drives. At first, in speed
 He, sprightly, puts his faith ; and, rous'd by fear,
 Gives all his swift aërial soul to flight. 430

Against

Against the breeze he darts, that way the more
To leave the lessening murderous cry behind.
Deception short! tho' fleetest than the winds
Blown o'er the keen-air'd mountain by the north,
He bursts the thickets, glances thro' the glades, 435
And plunges deep into the wildest wood.
If slow, yet sure, adhesive to the track
Hot-steaming, up behind him come again
Th' inhuman rout, and from the shady depth
Expel him, circling thro' his every shift. 440
He sweeps the forest oft; and fobbing fecs
The glades, mild opening to the golden day;
Where, in kind contest, with his butting friends
He wont to struggle, or his loves enjoy.
Oft in the full-descending flood he tries 445
To lose the scent, and lave his burning fides:
Oft seeks the herd; the watchful herd, alarm'd,
With selfish care avoid a brother's woe.
What shall he do? His once so vivid nerves,
So full of buoyant spirit, now no more 450
Inspire the course; but fainting breathless toil,
Sick, seizes on his heart: he stands at bay;
And puts his last weak refuge in despair.
The big round tears run down his dappled face;
He groans in anguish; while the growling pack,
Blood-happy, hang at his fair jutting chest, 456
And mark his beauteous chequer'd fides with gore.

OF this enough. But if the filvan youth
 Whose fervent blood boils into violence,
 Must have the chace ; behold, despising flight, 460
 'The rous'd up lion, resolute, and slow,
 Advancing full on the protended spear,
 And coward-band, that circling wheel aloof.
 Slunk from the cavern, and the troubled wood,
 See the grim wolf ; on him his shaggy foe 465
 Vindictive fix, and let the ruffian die :
 Or, growling horrid, as the brindled boar
 Grins fell destruction, to the monster's heart
 Let the dart lighten from the nervous arm.

THESE BRITAIN knows not ; give, ye BRITONS,
 then
 Your sportive fury, pitiless, to pour. 471
 Loose on the nightly robber of the fold :
 Him, from his craggy winding haunts unearth'd,
 Let all the thunder of the chace pursue.
 Throw the broad ditch behind you ; o'er the hedge
 High-bound, resistless ; nor the deep morass 476
 Refuse, but thro' the shaking wilderness
 Pick your nice way ; into the perilous flood
 Bear fearless, of the raging instinct full ;
 And as you ride the torrent, to the banks 480
 Your triumph found sonorous, running round,
 From rock to rock, in circling echoes tost.

BUT

60 BUT if the rougher sex by this fierce sport
Is hurried wild, let not such horrid joy
E'er stain the bosom of the BRITISH FAIR. 485
Far be the spirit of the chace from them !
Uncomely courage, unbeseeming skill ;
To spring the fence, to rein the prancing steed ;
The cap, the whip, the masculine attire,
5 In which they roughen to the sense, and all 490
The winning softness of their sex is lost.
In them 'tis graceful to dissolve at woe ;
With every motion, every word, to wave
Quick o'er the kindling cheek the ready blush ;
And from the smallest violence to shrink, 495
Unequal, then the loveliest in their fears ;
And by this silent adulation, soft,
To their protection more engaging Man.
O may their eyes no miserable sight,
Save weeping lovers, see ! a nobler game, 500
Thro' Love's enchanting wiles pursued, yet fled,
In chace ambiguous. May their tender limbs
Float in the loose simplicity of dress !
And, fashion'd all to harmony, alone
Know they to seize the captivated soul, 505
In rapture warbled from love-breathing lips ;
To teach the lute to languish ; with smooth step,
Disclosing Motion in its every charm,
To swim along, and swell the mazy dance ;

To

To train the foliage o'er the snowy lawn ; 510
 To guide the pencil, turn the tuneful page ;
 To lend new flavour to the fruitful year,
 And heighten Nature's dainties ; in their race
 To rear their graces into second life ;
 To give society its highest taste ; 515
 Well-ordered Home Man's best delight to make ;
 And by submissive wisdom, modest skill,
 With every gentle care-eluding art,
 To raise the virtues, animate the bliss,
 And sweeten all the toils of human life : 520
 This be the female dignity, and praise.

Ye swains now hasten to the hazel-bank ;
 Where, down yon dale, the wildly-winding brook
 Falls hoarse from steep to steep. In close array,
 Fit for the thickets and the tangling shrub, 525
 Ye virgins come. For you their latest song
 The woodlands raise ; the clustering nuts for you
 The lover finds amid the secret shade ;
 And, where they burnish on the topmost bough,
 With active vigour crushes down the tree ; 530
 Or shakes them ripe from the resigning husk,
 A glossy shower, and of an ardent brown,
 As are the ringlets of MELINDA's hair :
 MELINDA form'd with every grace compleat,
 Yet these neglecting, above beauty wise, 535
 And far transcending such a vulgar praise.

HENCE

HENCE from the busy joy-resounding fields,
 In chearful error, let us tread the maze
 Of Autumn, unconfin'd ; and taste, reviv'd,
 The breath of orchard big with bending fruit. 540
 Obedient to the breeze and beating ray,
 From the deep loaded bough a mellow shower
 Incessant melts away. The juicy pear
 Lies, in a soft profusion, scatter'd round.
 A various sweetness swells the gentle race ; 545
 By Nature's all-refining hand prepar'd ;
 Of temper'd sun, and water, earth, and air,
 In ever-changing composition mixt.
 Such, falling frequent thro' the chiller night,
 The fragrant stores, the wide-projected heaps 550
 Of apples, which the lusty-handed year,
 Innumerable, o'er the blushing orchard shakes.
 A various spirit, fresh, delicious, keen,
 Dwells in their gelid pores ; and, active, points
 The piercing cyder for the thirsty tongue : 555
 Thy *native* theme, and boon Inspirer too,
 PHILLIPS, *Pomona's* bard, the second thou
 Who nobly durst, in rhyme-unfetter'd verse,
 With BRITISH freedom sing the BRITISH song :
 How, from *Silurian* vats, high-sparkling wines 560
 Foam in transparent floods ; some strong, to cheer
 The wintry revels of the labouring hind ;
 And tasteful some, to cool the summer-hours.

IN

In this glad season, while his sweetest beams
 The sun sheds equal o'er the meeken'd day ; 565
 Oh lose me in the green delightful walks
 Of, DODINGTON, thy seat, serene and plain ;
 Where simple Nature reigns ; and every view,
 Diffusive, spreads the pure *Dorsetian* downs, 569
 In boundless prospect ; yonder shagg'd with wood,
 Here rich with harvest, and there white with flocks !
 Mean time the grandeur of thy lofty dome,
 Far-splendid, seizes on the ravish'd eye.
 New beauties rise with each revolving day ; 574
 New columns swell ; and still the fresh Spring finds
 New plants to quicken, and new groves to green.
 Full of thy genius all ! the *Muses'* seat ;
 Where in the secret bower, and winding walk,
 For virtuous *Young* and thee they twine the bay.
 Here wandering oft, fir'd with the restless thirst 580
 Of thy applause, I solitary court
 Th' inspiring breeze : and meditate the book
 Of Nature ever open ; aiming thence,
 Warm from the heart, to learn the moral song.
 Here, as I steal along the sunny wall, 585
 Where Autumn basks, with fruit empurpled deep,
 My pleasing theme continual prompts my thought :
 Presents the downy peach ; the shining plum ;

The

A U T U M N.

141

The ruddy, fragrant nectarine ; and dark,
 Beneath his ample leaf, the luscious fig. 590
 The vine too here her curling tendrils shoots ;
 Hangs out her clusters, glowing to the south ;
 And scarcely wishes for a warmer sky.

TURN we a moment Fancy's rapid flight
 To vigorous soils, and climes of fair extent ; 595
 Where, by the potent sun elated high,
 The vineyard swells refulgent on the day ;
 Spreads o'er the vale ; or up the mountain climbs,
 Profuse ; and drinks amid the sunny rocks, 599
 From cliff to cliff encreas'd, the heightened blaze.
 Low bend the weighty boughs. The clusters clear,
 Half thro' the foliage seen, or ardent flame,
 Or shine transparent ; while perfection breathes
 White o'er the turgent film the living dew.
 As thus they brighten with exalted juice, 605
 Touch'd into flavour by the mingling ray ;
 The rural youth and virgins o'er the field,
 Each fond for each to cull th' autumnal prime,
 Exulting rove, and speak the vintage nigh. 609
 Then comes the crushing swain ; the country floats,
 And foams unbounded with the mathy flood ;
 'That by degrees fermented, and refin'd,

Round

Round the rais'd nations pours the cup of joy :
 The claret smooth, red as the lip we press
 In sparkling fancy, while we drain the bowl ; 615
 The mellow-tasted burgundy ; and quick,
 As is the wit it gives, the gay champaign.

Now, by the cool declining year condens'd,
 Descend the copious exhalations, check'd
 As up the middle sky unseen they stole, 620
 And roll the doubling fogs around the hill.
 No more the mountain, horrid, vast, sublime,
 Who pours a sweep of rivers from his sides,
 And high between contending kingdoms rears
 The rocky long division, fills the view 625
 With great variety ; but in a night
 Of gathering vapour, from the baffled sense
 Sinks dark and dreary. Thence expanding far,
 The huge dusk, gradual, swallows up the plain :
 Vanish the woods ; the dim-seen river seems 630
 Sullen, and slow, to rowl the misty wave.
 Even in the height of noon oppress'd, the sun
 Sheds weak, and blunt, his wide-refracted ray ;
 Whence glaring oft, with many a broaden'd orb,
 He frights the nations. Indistinct on earth, 635
 Seen thro' the turbid air, beyond the life

Objects

A U T U M N. 143

Objects appear ; and, wildered, o'er the waste
 The shepherd stalks gigantic. Till at last
 Wreath'd dun around, in deeper circles still
 Successive closing, fits the general fog 640
 Unbounded o'er the world ; and, mingling thick,
 A formless grey confusion covers all.
 As when of old (so sung the HEBREW BARD)
 Light, uncollected, thro' the chaos urg'd
 Its infant way ; nor order yet had drawn 645
 His lovely train from out the dubious gloom.

THESE roving mists, that constant now begin
 To smother along the hilly country, these,
 With weighty rains, and melted Alpine snows,
 The mountain-cisterns fill, those ample stores 650
 Of water, scoop'd among the hollow rocks ;
 Whence gush the streams, the ceaseless fountains play,
 And their unfailing wealth the rivers draw.
 Some sages say, that, where the numerous wave
 For ever lashes the resounding shore, 655
 Drill'd thro' the sandy *Stratum*, every way,
 The waters with the sandy *Stratum* rise ;
 Amid whose angles infinitely strain'd,
 They joyful leave their jaggy salts behind,
 And clear and sweeten, as they soak along. 660
 Nor

Nor stops the restless fluid, mounting still,
 Though oft amidst th' irriguous vale it springs ;
 But to the mountain courted by the sand,
 That leads it darkling on in faithful maze,
 Far from the parent-main, it boils again 665
 Fresh into day ; and all the glittering hill
 Is bright with spouting rills. But hence this vain
 Amusive dream ! why should the waters love
 To take so far a journey to the hills,
 When the sweet valleys offer to their toil 670
 Inviting quiet, and a nearer bed ?
 Or if, by blind ambition led astray,
 They must aspire ; why should they sudden stop
 Among the broken mountain's rushy dells,
 And, ere they gain its highest peak, desert 675
 Th' attractive sand that charm'd their course so long ?
 Besides, the hard agglomerating salts,
 The spoil of ages, would impervious choak
 Their secret channels ; or, by slow degrees,
 High as the hills protrude the swelling vales : 680
 Old Ocean too, suck'd thro' the porous globe,
 Had long ere now forsook his horrid bed,
 And brought *Deucalion's* watry times again.

SAY then, where lurk the vast eternal springs,
 That, like CREATING NATURE, lie conceal'd 685
 From

From mortal eye, yet with their lavish stores
 Refresh the globe, and all its joyous tribes ?
 O thou pervading *Genius*, given to Man,
 To trace the secrets of the dark abyfs,
 O lay the mountains bare ! and wide display 690
 Their hidden structure to th' astonish'd view !
 Strip from the branching *Alps* their piny load ;
 The huge incumbrance of horrific woods
 From *Asian Taurus*, from *Imaius* stretch'd
 Athwart the roving *Tartar's* fullen bounds ! 695
 Give opening *Hemus* to my searching eye,
 And high *Olympus* pouring many a stream !
 O from the founding fummits of the north,
 The *Dofrine Hills*, thro' *Scandinavia* roll'd
 To farthest *Lapland* and the frozen main ; 700
 From lofty *Caucafus*, far-feen by thofe
 Who in the *Caspian* and black *Euxine* toil ;
 From cold *Riphean Rocks*, which the wild *Rufs*
 Believes the * *ftony girdle* of the world ;
 And all the dreadful mountains, wrapt in ftorm, 705
 Whence wide *Siberia* draws her lonely floods ;
 O fweep th' eternal fnows ! Hung o'er the deep,
 That ever works beneath his founding bafe,
 Bid *Atlas*, propping heaven, as Poets feign,
 His fubterranean wonders fspread ! unveil 710

* The *Mofcovites* call the *Riphean Mountains* *Weliki Camery-poy*s, that is, the great *ftony Girdle* : becaufe they fuppofe them to encompass the whole earth.

The miny caverns, blazing on the day,
 Of *Abyssinia's* cloud-compelling cliffs,
 And of the bending † *Mountains of the Moon* !
 O'ertopping all these giant-sons of earth,
 Let the dire *Andes*, from the radiant Line 715
 Stretch'd to the stormy seas that thunder round
 The southern pole, their hideous deeps unfold !
 Amazing scene ! Behold ! the glooms disclose,
 I see the rivers in their infant beds !
 Deep, deep I hear them, lab'ring to get free ! 720
 I see the leaning *Strata*, artful rang'd ;
 The gaping fissures to receive the rains,
 The melting snows, and ever-dripping fogs.
 Strow'd bibulous above I see the sands,
 The pebbly gravel next, the layers then 725
 Of mingled moulds, of more retentive earths,
 The gutter'd rocks and mazy-running clefts ;
 That, while the stealing moisture they transmit,
 Retard its motion, and forbid its waste.
 Beneath th' incessant weeping of these drains, 730
 I see the rocky siphons stretch'd immense,
 The mighty reservoirs, of hardened chalk,
 Or stiff compacted clay, capacious form'd.
 O'erflowing thence, the congregated stores,
 The crystal treasures of the liquid world, 735
 Thro' the stirr'd sands a bubbling passage burst ;

† A range of mountains in *Africa*, that surround almost all
Monomotapa.

And

A U T U M N.

147

And welling out, around the middle steep,
Or from the bottoms of the bosom'd hills,
In pure effusion flow. United, thus,
Th' exhaling fun, the vapour-burden'd air, 740
The gelid mountains, that to rain condens'd
These vapours in continual current draw,
And send them, o'er the fair-divided earth,
In bounteous rivers to the deep again,
A social commerce hold, and firm support 745
The full-adjusted harmony of things.

WHEN Autumn scatters his departing gleams,
Warn'd of approaching Winter, gather'd, play
The swallow-people ; and tofs'd wide around,
O'er the calm sky, in convolution swift, 750
The feather'd eddy floats : rejoicing once,
Ere to their wintry slumbers they retire ;
In clusters clung, beneath the mouldring bank,
And where, unpierc'd by frost, the cavern sweats.
Or rather into warmer climes convey'd, 755
With other kindred birds of season, there
They twitter chearful, till the vernal months
Invite them welcome back : for, thronging, now
Innumeros wings are in commotion all.

WHERE the *Rhine* loses his majestic force 760
In *Belgian* plains, won from the raging deep,
By diligence amazing, and the strong
Unconquerable hand of Liberty,

The stork-assembly meets ; for many a day,
 Consulting deep, and various, ere they take 765
 Their arduous voyage thro' the liquid sky.
 And now their rout design'd, their leaders chose,
 Their tribes adjusted, clean'd their vigorous wings ;
 And many a circle, many a short essay,
 Wheel'd round and round, in congregation full, 770
 The figur'd flight ascends ; and, riding high
 Th' aërial billows, mixes with the clouds.

OR where the *Northern* ocean, in vast whirls,
 Boils round the naked melancholy isles
 Of farthest *Thulé*, and th' *Atlantic* furge 775
 Pours in among the stormy *Hebrides* ;
 Who can recount what transmigrations there
 Are annual made ? What nations come and go ?
 And how the living clouds on clouds arise ?
 Infinite wings ! till all the plume-dark air, 780
 And rude resounding shore are one wild cry.

HERE the plain harmless native his small flock,
 And herd diminutive of many hues,
 Tends on the little island's verdant swell,
 The shepherd's sea-girt reign ; or, to the rocks 785
 Dire-clinging, gathers his ovarious food ;
 Or sweeps the fishy shore ; or treasures up
 The plumage, rising full, to form the bed
 Of luxury. And here a while the Muse,
 High-hovering o'er the broad cerulean scene, 790
 Sees

A U T U M N.

149

Sees CALEDONIA, in romantic view :

Her airy mountains, from the waving main,
Invested with a keen diffusive sky,

Breathing the soul acute ; her forests huge,
Incult, robust, and tall, by Nature's hand

Planted of old ; her azure lakes between,
Pour'd out extensive, and of watry wealth

Full ; winding deep, and green, her fertile vales ;
With many a cool translucent brimming flood

Wash'd lovely, from the *Tweed* (pure *Parent-stream*,
Whose pastoral banks first heard my *Doric* reed,

With, silvan *Jed*, thy tributary brook)

To where the north-inflated tempest foams
O'er *Orca's* or *Betubium's* highest peak:

Nurse of a people, in misfortune's school
Train'd up to hardy deeds ; soon visited

By *Learning*, when before the *Gothic* rage
She took her western flight. A manly race,

Of unsubmitting spirit, wise, and brave ;
Who still thro' bleeding ages struggled hard,

(As well unhappy WALLACE can attest,
Great patriot-hero ! ill-requited chief !)

To hold a generous undiminish'd state ;
Too much in vain ! Hence of unequal bounds

Impatient, and by tempting glory borne
O'er every land, for every land their life

Has flow'd profuse, their piercing genius plann'd,
And swell'd the pomp of peace their faithful toil.

H 3

As.

As from their own clear north, in radiant streams,
Bright over *Europe* bursts the *Boreal Morn*. 829

OH is there not some patriot, in whose power
That best, that godlike *Luxury* is plac'd,
Of blessing thousands, thousands yet unborn,
'Thro' late posterity ? some, large of soul,
To cheer dejected industry ? to give 825
A double harvest to the pining swain ?
And teach the labouring hand the sweets of toil ?
How, by the finest art, the native robe
To weave ; how, white as hyperborean snow,
To form the lucid lawn ; with venturous oar, 830
How to dash wide the billow ; nor look on,
Shamefully passive, while *Batavian* fleets
Defraud us of the glittering finny swarms,
That heave our friths, and croud upon our shores ;
How all-enlivening trade to rouse, and wing 835
The prosperous sail, from every growing port,
Uninjur'd, round the sea-incircled globe ;
And thus, in soul united as in name,
Bid *BRITAIN* reign the mistress of the deep ?

YES, there are such. And full on thee, *ARGYLE*,
Her hope, her stay, her darling, and her boast, 841
From her first patriots and her heroes sprung,
Thy fond imploring Country turns her eye ;
In thee, with all a mother's triumph, sees

Her

A U T U M N.

151

Her every virtue, every grace combin'd, 845
 Her genius, wisdom, her engaging turn,
 Her pride of honour, and her courage try'd,
 Calm, and intrepid, in the very throat
 Of sulphurous war, on *Tenier's* dreadful field.
 Nor less the palm of peace inwreathes thy brow : 850
 For, powerful as thy sword, from thy rich tongue
 Persuasion flows, and wins the high debate ;
 While mix'd in thee combine the charm of youth,
 The force of manhood, and the depth of age.
 Thee, *FORBES*, too, whom every worth attends, 855
 As truth sincere, as weeping friendship kind,
 Thee, truly generous, and in silence great,
 Thy country feels thro' her reviving arts,
 Plan'd by thy wisdom, by thy soul inform'd ;
 And seldom has she known a friend like thee. 860

But see the fading many-colour'd woods,
 Shade deepening over shade, the country round
 Imbrown'd ; a croud'd umbrage, dusk, and dun,
 Of every hue, from wan declining green 864
 To sooty dark. These now the lonesome Muse,
 Low-whispering, lead into their leaf-strown walks,
 And give the season in its latest view.

MEAN-TIME, light-shadowing all, a sober calm
 Fleeces unbounded ether ; whose least wave
 Stands tremulous, uncertain where to turn. 870

H 4.

The

'The gentle current: while illumin'd wide,
 The dewy-skirted clouds imbibe the sun,
 And thro' their lucid veil his soften'd force
 Shed o'er the peaceful world. Then is the time,
 For those whom wisdom and whom Nature charm,
 To steal themselves from the degenerate croud, 876
 And soar above this little scene of things;
 'To tread low-thoughted vice beneath their feet;
 'To soothe the throbbing passions into peace;
 And wooe lone Quiet in her silent walks. 880

Thus solitary, and in pensive guise,
 Oft let me wander o'er the russet mead,
 And thro' the sadden'd grove, where scarce is heard
 One dying strain, to cheer the woodman's toil.
 Haply some widowed songster pours his plaint, 885
 Far, in faint warblings, thro' the tawny copse.
 While congregated thrushes, linnets, larks,
 And each wild throat, whose artless strains so late
 Swell'd all the music of the swarming shades,
 Robb'd of their tuneful souls, now shivering sit 890
 On the dead tree, a dull despondent flock;
 With not a brightness waving o'er their plumes,
 And nought save chattering discord in their note.
 O let not, aim'd from some inhuman eye,
 The gun the music of the coming year 895
 Destroy; and harmless, unsuspecting harm,
 Lay the weak tribes, a miserable prey,

In

In mingled murder, fluttering on the ground !

THE pale descending year, yet pleasing still,
 A gentler mood inspires ; for now the leaf 900
 Incessant rustles from the mournful grove ;
 Oft startling such as, studious, walk below,
 And slowly circles thro' the waving air.
 But should a quicker breeze amid the boughs
 Sob, o'er the sky the leafy deluge streams ; 905
 'Till choak'd, and matted with the dreary shower,
 The forest-walks, at every rising gale,
 Roll wide the wither'd waste, and whistle bleak.
 Fled is the blasted verdure of the fields ;
 And, shrunk into their beds, the flowery race 910
 Their sunny robes resign. Even what remain'd
 Of stronger fruits falls from the naked tree ;
 And woods, fields, gardens, orchards, all around
 The desolated prospect thrills the soul.

HE comes ! he comes ! in every breeze the POWER
 Of PHILOSOPHIC MELANCHOLY comes ! 916
 His near approach the sudden-starting tear,
 The glowing cheek, the mild dejected air,
 The softened feature, and the beating heart,
 Pierc'd deep with many a virtuous pang, declare. 920
 O'er all the soul his sacred influence breathes !
 Inflames imagination ; thro' the breast
 Infuses every tenderness ; and far

Beyond him earth exalts the swelling thought.
 Ten thousand thousand fleet ideas, such 925
 As never mingled with the vulgar dream,
 Croud fast into the Mind's creative eye.
 As fast the correspondent passions rise,
 As varied, and as high : Devotion rais'd
 To rapture, and divine astonishment ; 930
 The love of Nature unconfin'd, and, chief,
 Of human race ; the large ambitious wish,
 To make them blest ; the sigh for suffering worth,
 Lost in obscurity ; the noble scorn
 Of tyrant-pride ; the fearless great resolve ; 935
 The wonder which the dying patriot draws,
 Inspiring glory thro' remotest time ;
 Th' awakened throb for virtue, and for fame ;
 The sympathies of love, and friendship dear ;
 With all the social offspring of the heart. 940

Oh bear me then to vast embowering shades,
 To twilight groves, and visionary vales ;
 To weeping grottoes, and prophetic glooms ;
 Where angel-forms athwart the solemn dusk,
 Tremendous sweep, or seem to sweep along ; 945
 And voices more than human, thro' the void
 Deep-sounding, seize th' enthusiastic ear !

OR is this gloom too much ? Then lead, ye powers,
 That o'er the garden and the rural seat

Pre-

A U T U M N. 155

Preside, which shining thro' the chearful land 950
 In countless numbers blest BRITANNIA sees ;
 O lead me to the wide-extended walks,
 The fair majestic paradise of STOWE * !
 Not *Persian Cyrus* on *Ionian's* shore,
 E'er saw such silvan scenes ; such various art 955
 By genius fir'd, such ardent genius tam'd
 By cool judicious art ; that, in the strife,
 All-beauteous Nature fears to be outdone.
 And there, O PRT, thy country's early boast,
 There let me sit beneath the shelter'd slopes, 960
 Or in that † *Temple* where, in future times,
 Thou well shalt merit a distinguish'd name ;
 And, with thy converse blest, catch the last smiles
 Of Autumn beaming o'er the yellow woods.
 While there with thee th' enchanted round I walk,
 The regulated wild, gay Fancy then 966
 Wild tread in thought the groves of *Attic Land* ;
 Will from thy standard taste refine her own,
 Correct her pencil to the purest truth
 Of Nature, or, the unimpassion'd shades 970
 Forfaking, raise it to the human mind.
 Or if hereafter she, with *juster* hand,
 Shall draw the tragic scene, instruct her thou,

* The seat of the Lord Viscount Cobham.

† The Temple of Virtue in *Stowe-Gardens*.

To mark the varied movements of the heart,
 What every decent character requires, 975
 And every passion speaks : O thro' her strain
 Breathe thy pathetic eloquence ! that moulds
 Th' attentive senate, charms, persuades, exalts,
 Of honest zeal th' indignant lightning throws,
 And shakes corruption on her venal throne. 980
 While thus we talk, and thro' *Elysian Vales*
 Delighted rove, perhaps a sigh escapes :
 What pity, COBHAM, thou thy verdant files
 Of ordered trees shouldst here inglorious range,
 Instead of squadrons flaming o'er the field, 985
 And long-embattled hosts ! When the proud foe
 The faithless vain disturber of mankind,
 Insulting *Gaul*, has rous'd the world to war ;
 When keen, once more, within their bounds to press
 Those polish'd robbers, those ambitious slaves, 990
 The BRITISH YOUTH would hail thy wise command,
 Thy temper'd ardor and thy veteran skill.

THE western sun withdraws the shortened day ;
 And humid evening, gliding o'er the sky,
 In her chill progress, to the ground condens'd 995
 The vapours throws. Where creeping waters ooze,
 Where marshes stagnate, and where rivers wind,
 Cluster the rolling fogs, and swim along
 The dusky-mantled lawn. Mean-while the moon
 Full-

A U T U M N.

157

Full-orb'd, and breaking thro' the scattered clouds,
 Shews her broad visage in the crimson'd east. 1001
 Turn'd to the sun direct, her spotted disk,
 Where mountains rise, umbrageous dales descend,
 And caverns deep, as optic tube descries,
 A smaller earth, gives all his blaze again, 1005
 Void of its flame, and sheds a softer day.
 Now thro' the passing cloud she seems to stoop,
 Now up the pure cerulean rides sublime.
 Wide the pale deluge floats, and streaming mild
 O'er the sky'd mountains to the shadowy vale, 1010
 While rocks and floods reflect the quivering gleam,
 The whole air whitens with a boundless tide
 Of silver radiance, trembling round the world.

BUT when half blotted from the sky her light,
 Fainting, permits the starry fires to burn, 1015
 With keener lustre thro' the depth of heaven;
 Or quite extinct her deaden'd orb appears,
 And scarce appears, of sickly beamless white;
 Oft in this season, silent from the north
 A blaze of meteors shoots: ensweeping first 1020
 The lower skies, they all at once converge
 High to the crown of heaven, and all at once
 Relapsing quick as quickly reascend,
 And mix, and thwart, extinguish, and renew,
 All ether coursing in a maze of light. 1025

FROM

FROM look to look, contagious thro' the croud,
 The panic runs, and into wondrous shapes
 Th' appearance throws : armies in meet array,
 Throng'd with aërial spears, and steeds of fire ;
 Till the long lines of full-extended war 1030
 In bleeding fight commixt, the sanguine flood
 Rolls a broad slaughter o'er the plains of heaven.
 As thus they scan the visionary scene,
 On all sides swells the superstitious din,
 Incontinent ; and busy frenzy talks 1035
 Of blood and battle ; cities over-turn'd,
 And late at night in swallowing earthquake sunk,
 Or hideous wrapt in fierce ascending flame ;
 Of fallow famine, inundation, storm ;
 Of pestilence, and every great distress ; 1040
 Empires subvers'd, when ruling fate has struck
 Th' unalterable hour : even Nature's self
 Is deem'd to totter on the brink of time.
 Not so the man of philosophic eye,
 And inspect sage ; the waving brightness he 1045
 Curious surveys, inquisitive to know
 The causes, and materials, yet unfix'd,
 Of this appearance beautiful and new.

Now black, and deep, the night begins to fall,
 A shade immense. Sunk in the quenching gloom,
 Magnificent and vast, are heaven and earth. 1051
 Order

A U T U M N:

159

Order confounded lies ; all beauty void ;
 Distinction lost ; and gay variety
 One universal blot : such the fair power
 Of light, to kindle and create the whole. 1055
 Drear is the state of the benighted wretch,
 Who then, bewilder'd, wanders thro' the dark,
 Full of pale fancies, and chimera's huge ;
 Nor visited by one directive ray,
 From cottage streaming, or from airy hall. 1060
 Perhaps impatient as he stumbles on,
 Struck from the root of slimy rushes, blue,
 The wild-fire scatters round, or gather'd trails
 A length of flame deceitful o'er the moss ;
 Whither decoy'd by the fantastic blaze, 1065
 Now lost and now renew'd, he sinks absorpt,
 Rider and horse, amid the miry gulph :
 While still, from day to day, his pining wife,
 And plaintive children his return await,
 In wild conjecture lost. At other times, 1070
 Sent by the *better Genius* of the night,
 Innocuous, gleaming on the horse's mane,
 The meteor fits ; and shews the narrow path,
 That winding leads thro' pits of death, or else
 Instructs him how to take the dangerous ford. 1075

THE lengthen'd night elaps'd, the morning shines
 Serene, in all her dewy beauty bright,
 Unfolding fair the last autumnal day.

And

And now the mounting sun dispels the fog ;
 The rigid hoar-frost melts before his beam ; 1080
 And hung on every spray, on every blade
 Of grass, the myriad dew-drops twinkle round.

 Ah see where robb'd, and murder'd, in that pit,
 Lies the still heaving hive ! at evening snatch'd,
 Beneath the cloud of guilt-concealing night, 1085
 And fix'd o'er sulphur : while, not dreaming ill,
 The happy people, in their waxen cells,
 Sat tending public cares, and planning schemes
 Of temperance, for Winter poor ; rejoic'd
 To mark, full flowing round, their copious stores.
 Sudden the dark oppressive steam ascends ; 1091
 And, us'd to milder scents, the tender race,
 By thousands, tumbles from their honey'd domes,
 Convolv'd, and agonizing in the dust.
 And was it then for this you roam'd the Spring, 1095
 Intent from flower to flower ? for this you toil'd
 Ceaseless the burning Summer-heats away ?
 For this in Autumn search'd the blooming waste,
 Nor lost one sunny gleam ? for this sad fate ?
 O Man ! tyrannic lord ! how long, how long, 1100
 Shall prostrate Nature groan beneath your rage,
 Awaiting renovation ? when oblig'd,
 Must you destroy ? Of their ambrosial food
 Can you not borrow ; and, in just return,
 Afford them shelter from the wintry winds ; 1105
 Or,

Or, as the sharp year pinches, with their own
 Again regale them on some smiling day?
 See where the stony bottom of their town
 Looks desolate, and wild; with here and there
 A helpless number, who the ruin'd state 1110
 Survive, lamenting weak, cast out to death.
 Thus a proud city, populous and rich,
 Full of the works of peace, and high in joy,
 At theatre or feast, or sunk in sleep,
 (As late, *Palermo*, was thy fate) is seiz'd 1115.
 By some dread earthquake, and convulsive hurl'd
 Sheer from the black foundation, stench-involv'd,
 Into a gulph of blue sulphureous flame.

HENCE every harsher sight! for now the day,
 O'er heaven and earth diffus'd, grows warm, and high,
 Infinite splendor! wide investing all. 1121
 How still the breeze! save what the filmy threads
 Of dew evaporate brushes from the plain.
 How clear the cloudless sky! how deeply ting'd
 With a peculiar blue! the ethereal arch 1125
 How swell'd immense! amid whose azure thron'd
 The radiant sun how gay! how calm below
 The gilded earth! the harvest-treasures all
 Now gather'd in, beyond the rage of storms,
 Sure to the swain; the circling fence shut up; 1130
 And instant Winter's utmost rage defy'd.
 While, loose to festive joy, the country round

Laughs



Laughs with the loud sincerity of mirth,
Shook to the wind their cares. The toil-strung youth,
By the quick sense of music taught alone, 1135
Leaps wildly graceful in the lively dance.
Her every charm abroad, the village-toast,
Young, buxom, warm, in native beauty rich,
Darts not-unmeaning looks; and, where her eye
Points an approving smile, with double force, 1140
The cudgel rattles, and the wrestler twines.
Age too shines out; and, garrulous, recounts
The feats of youth. Thus they rejoice; nor think
That, with to-morrow's fun, their annual toil
Begins again the never-ceasing round. 1145

Oh knew he but his happiness, of Men
The happiest he! who far from public rage,
Deep in the vale, with a *choice Few* retir'd,
Drinks the pure pleasures of the RURAL LIFE. 1149
What tho' the dome be wanting, whose proud gate,
Each morning, vomits out the sneaking croud
Of flatterers false, and in their turn abus'd?
Vile intercourse! What tho' the glittering robe,
Of every hue reflected light can give,
Or floating loose, or stiff with mazy gold, 1155
The pride and gaze of fools! oppress him not?
What tho', from utmost land and sea purvey'd,
For him each rarer tributary life
Bleeds not, and his insatiate table heaps 1159
With

With luxury, and death? What tho' his bowl
 Flames not with costly juice; nor sunk in beds,
 Oft of gay care, he tosses out the night,
 Or melts the thoughtless hours in idle state?
 What tho' he knows not those fantastic joys,
 That still amuse the wanton, still deceive; 1165
 A face of pleasure, but a heart of pain;
 Their hollow moments undelighted all?
 Sure peace is his; a solid life, estrang'd
 To disappointment, and fallacious hope:
 Rich in content, in Nature's bounty rich, 1170
 In herbs and fruits; whatever greens the Spring,
 When heaven descends in showers; or bends the bough
 When Summer reddens, and when Autumn beams;
 Or in the wintry glebe whatever lies
 Conceal'd, and fattens with the richest sap: 1175
 These are not wanting; nor the milky drove,
 Luxuriant, spread o'er all the lowing vale;
 Nor bleating mountains; nor the chide of streams,
 And hum of bees, inviting sleep sincere
 Into the guiltless breast, beneath the shade, 1180
 Or thrown at large amid the fragrant hay;
 Nor ought besides of prospect, grove, or song,
 Dim grottoes, gleaming lakes, and fountain clear.
 Here too dwells simple truth; plain innocence;
 Unfullied beauty; sound unbroken youth, 1185
 Patient of labour, with a little pleas'd;

Health

Health ever blooming; unambitious toil;
Calm contemplation, and poetic ease.

LET others brave the flood in quest of gain, 1189
 And beat, for joyless months, the gloomy wave.
 Let such as deem it glory to destroy
 Rush into blood, the sack of cities seek;
 Unpierc'd, exulting in the widow's wail,
 The virgin's shriek, and infant's trembling cry.
 Let some, far-distant from their native soil, 1195
 Urg'd or by want or hardened avarice,
 Find other lands beneath another sun.
 Let this through cities work his eager way,
 By legal outrage and establish'd guile,
 The social sense extinct; and that ferment 1200
 Mad into tumult the seditious herd,
 Or melt them down to slavery. Let these
 Insnare the wretched in the toils of law,
 Fomenting discord, and perplexing right,
 An iron race! and those of fairer front, 1205
 But equal inhumanity, in courts,
 Delusive pomp, and dark cabals, delight;
 Wreath the deep bow, diffuse the lying smile,
 And tread the weary labyrinth of state.
 While he, from all the stormy passions free 1210
 That restless Men involve, hears, and but hears,
 At distance safe, the human tempest roar,
 Wrapt close in conscious peace. The fall of kings,

The

A U T U M N.

165

The rage of nations, and the crush of states, 1214
Move not the Man, who, from the world escap'd,
In still retreats, and flowery solitudes.

To Nature's voice attends, from month to month,
And day to day, thro' the revolving year;
Admiring, sees her in her every shape;

Feels all her sweet emotions at his heart; 1220

Takes what she liberal gives, nor thinks of more.

He, when young Spring protrudes the bursting gems
Marks the first bud, and sucks the healthful gale

Into his freshened soul; her genial hours

He full enjoys; and not a beauty blows, 1225

And not an opening blossom breathes in vain.

In Summer he, beneath the living shade,

Such as o'er frigid *Tempe* wont to wave,

Or *Hemus* cool, reads what the Muse, of these

Perhaps, has in immortal numbers sung; 1230

Or what she dictates writes: and, oft an eye

Shot round, rejoices in the vigorous year.

When Autumn's yellow lustre gilds the world,

And tempts the sickled swain into the field,

Seiz'd by the general joy, his heart distends 1235

With gentle throws; and, thro' the tepid gleams

Deep musing, then he *best* exerts his song.

Even Winter wild to him is full of bliss.

The mighty tempest, and the hoary waste, 1239

Abrupt, and deep, stretch'd o'er the buried earth,

Awake to solemn thought. At night the skies,

Disclos'd,

Disclos'd, and kindled, by refining frost,
Pour every lustre on th' exalted eye.

A friend a book the stealing hours secure, 1244
And mark them down for wisdom. With swift wing,
O'er land and sea imagination roams ;
Or truth, divinely breaking on his mind,
Elates his being, and unfolds his powers ;
Or in his breast heroic virtue burns.

The touch of kindred too and love he feels ; 1250
The modest eye, whose beams on his alone
Extatic shine ; the little strong embrace
Of prating children, twin'd around his neck,
And emulous to please him, calling forth
The fond parental soul. Nor purpose gay, 1255
Amusement, dance, or song, he sternly scorns ;
For happiness and true philosophy
Are of the social still, and smiling kind.
This is the life which those who fret in guilt,
And guilty cities, never knew ; the life, 1260
Led by primeval ages, uncorrupt,
When angels dwelt, and God himself, with Man !

OH NATURE ! all-sufficient ! over all !

Inrich me with the knowledge of thy works ! 1264
Snatch me to heaven ; thy rolling wonders there,
World beyond world, in infinite extent,
Profusely scattered o'er the blue immense,
Shew me their motions, periods, and their laws,

Give

A U T U M N.

167

Give me to scan ; thro' the disclosing deep 1269

Light my blind way : the mineral *Strata* there ;

Thrust, blooming, thence the vegetable world ;

O'er that the rising system, more complex,

Of animals ; and higher still, the mind,

The varied-scene of quick-compounded thought,

And where the mixing passions endless shift ; 1275

These ever open to my ravish'd eye :

A search, the flight of time can ne'er exhaust !

But if to that unequal ; if the blood,

In sluggish streams about my heart, forbid

That *best* ambition ; under closing shades, 1280

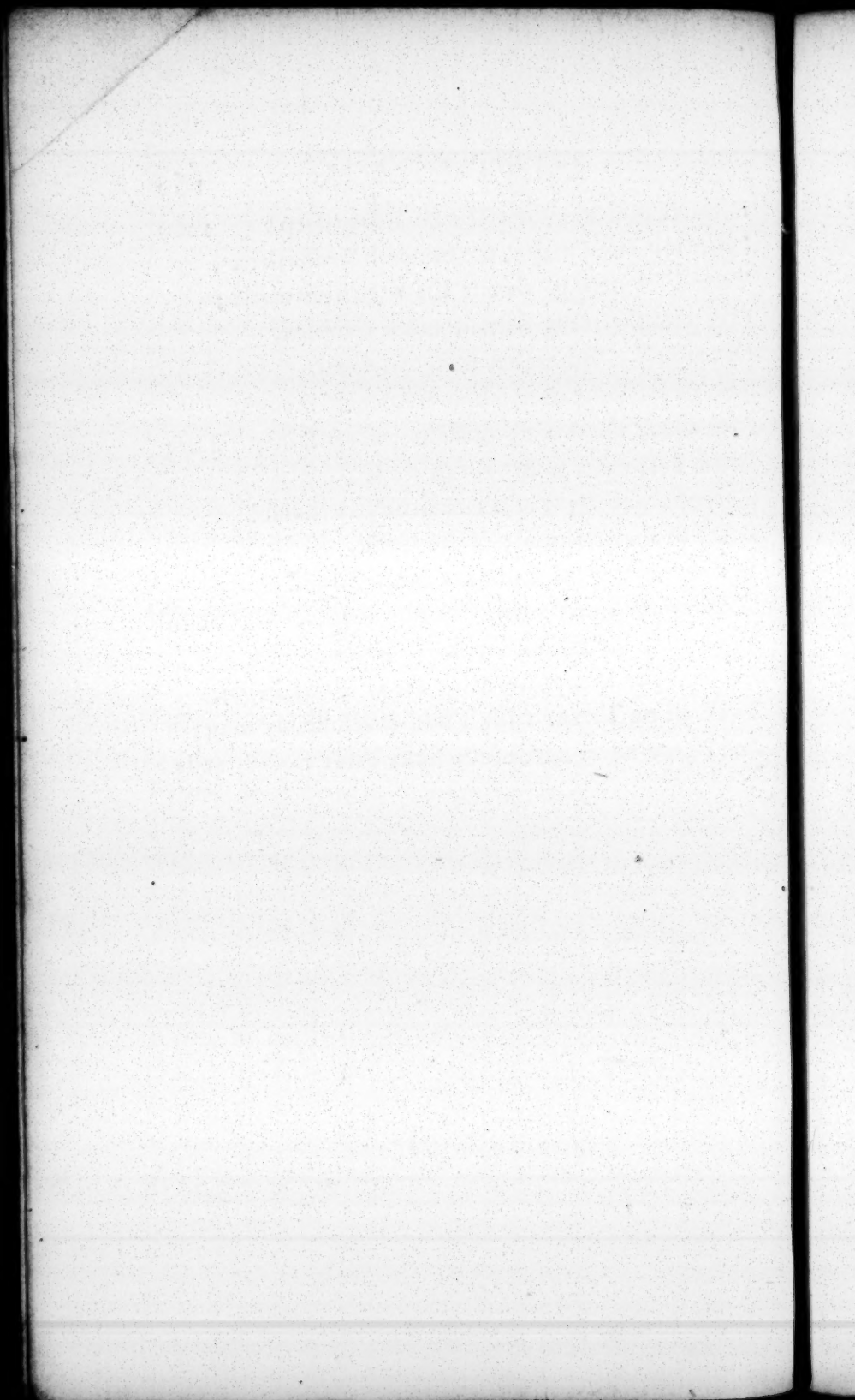
Inglorious, lay me by the lowly brook,

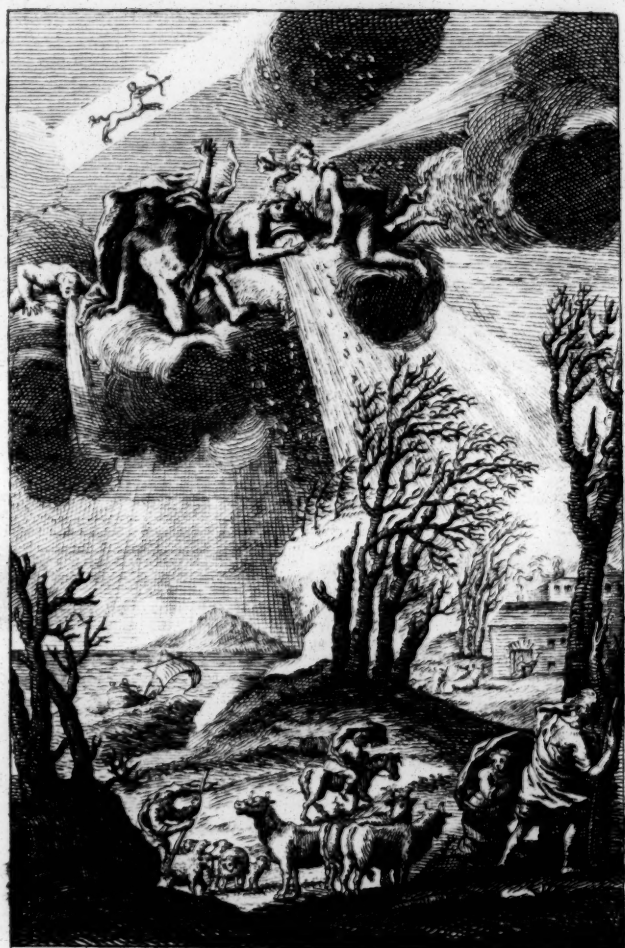
And whisper to my dreams. From THEE begin,

Dwell all on THEE, with THEE conclude my song ;

And let me never never stray from THEE ! 1284

WINTER.





W. Kent inv. et del.

P. Foudrinier Sculp.

WINTER.

W I N T E R.

VOL. I.

I

THE ARGUMENT.

The subject proposed. Address to the earl of WILMINGTON. First approach of Winter. According to the natural course of the season, various storms described. Rain. Wind. Snow. The driving of the snows: A Man perishing among them; whence reflections on the wants and miseries of human life. The wolves descending from the Alps and Apennines. A winter-evening described: as spent by philosophers; by the country people; in the city. Frost. A view of Winter within the polar Circle. A thaw. The whole concluding with moral reflections on a future state.

W I N T E R.

SEE, WINTER comes, to rule the varied year,
 Sullen and sad, with all his rising train ;
Vapours, and Clouds, and Storms. Be these my theme,
 These, that exalt the soul to solemn thought,
 And heavenly musing. Welcome, kindred glooms ! 5
 Cogential horrors, hail ! with frequent foot,
 Pleas'd have I, in my chearful morn of life,
 When nurs'd by careless solitude I liv'd,
 And sung of Nature with unceasing joy,
 Pleas'd have I wander'd thro' your rough domain ; 10
 Trod the pure virgin-snows, myself as pure ;
 Heard the winds roar, and the big torrent burst ;
 Or seen the deep fermenting tempest brew'd,
 In the grim evening sky. Thus pass'd the time,
 Till thro' the lucid chambers of the south, 15
 Look'd out the joyous SPRING, look'd out and smil'd.

To thee, the patron of *this first* essay,
 The Muse, O WILMINGTON ! renews her song.
 Since has she rounded the revolving year :

Skim'd the gay Spring ; on eagle-pinions borne, 20
 Attempted through the Summer-blaze to rise ;
 Then swept o'er Autumn with the shadowy gale ;
 And now among the wintry clouds again,
 Roll'd in the doubling storm, she tries to soar ;
 'To swell her note with all the rushing winds ; 25
 'To suit her sounding cadence to the floods ;
 As is her theme, her numbers wildly great :
 'Thrice happy ! could she fill thy judging ear
 With bold description, and with manly thought.
 Nor art thou skill'd in awful schemes alone, 30
 And how to make a mighty people thrive :
 But equal goodness, sound integrity,
 A firm unshaken uncorrupted soul
 Amid a sliding age, and burning strong,
 Not vainly blazing for thy country's weal, 35
 A steady spirit regularly free ;
 These, each exalting each, the statesman light
 Into the patriot ; these, the public hope
 And eye to thee converting, bid the Muse
 Record what envy dares not flattery call. 40

Now when the chearless empire of the sky
 To *Capricorn* the *Centaur-Archer* yields,
 And fierce *Aquarius*, stains th' inverted year ;
 Hung o'er the farthest verge of heaven, the sun
 Scarce spreads o'er ether the dejected day. 45
 Faint-are his gleams, and ineffectual shoot

His

His struggling rays, in horizontal lines,
Thro' the thick air ; as cloath'd in cloudy storm,
Weak, wan, and broad, he skirts the southern sky ;
And, soon-descending, to the long dark night, 50
Wide-shading all, the prostrate world resigns.
Nor is the night unwish'd ; while vital heat,
Light, life, and joy, the dubious day forsake.
Mean-time, in sable cincture, shadows vast,
Deep-ting'd and damp, and congregated clouds, 55
And all the vapoury turbulence of heaven
Involve the face of things. Thus Winter falls,
A heavy gloom oppressive o'er the world,
Thro' Nature shedding influence malign,
And rouses up the seeds of dark disease. 60
The soul of Man dies in him, loathing life,
And black with more than melancholy views.
The cattle droop ; and o'er the furrowed land,
Fresh from the plough, the dun discoloured flocks,
Untended spreading, crop the wholesome root. 65
Along the woods, along the moorish fens,
Sighs the sad *Genius* of the coming storm ;
And up among the loose disjointed cliffs,
And fractur'd mountains wild, the brawling brook
And cave, presageful, send a hollow moan, 70
Resounding long in listening Fancy's ear.

5
is
THEN comes the father of the tempest forth,
Wrapt in black glooms. First joyless rains obscure

Drive thro' the mingling skies with vapour foul ; 74
 Dash on the mountain's brow, and shake the woods,
 That grumbling wave below. Th' unsightly plain
 Lies a brown deluge ; as the low-bent clouds
 Pour flood on flood, yet unexhausted still
 Combine, and deepening into night shut up 79
 The day's fair face. The wanderers of heaven,
 Each to his home, retire ; save those that love
 To take their pastime in the troubled air,
 Or skimming flutter round the dimply pool.
 The cattle from th' untasted fields return, 84
 And ask, with meaning lowe, their wanted stalls,
 Or ruminate in the contiguous shade.
 Thither the household feathery people croud,
 The crested cock, with all his female train,
 Pensive, and dripping ; while the cottage-hind
 Hangs o'er th' enlivening blaze, and taleful there
 Recounts his simple frolic : much he talks, 91
 And much he laughs, nor recks the storm that blows
 Without, and rattles on his humble roof.

WIDE o'er the brim, with many a torrent swell'd,
 And the mix'd ruin of its banks o'erspread, 95
 At last the rous'd-up river pours along :
 Resistless, roaring, dreadful, down it comes,
 From the rude mountain, and the mossy wild,
 Tumbling thro' rocks abrupt, and sounding far ;
 Then o'er the fanded valley floating spreads, 100
 Calm,

Calm, sluggish, silent; till again constrain'd,
 Between two meeting hills it bursts a way,
 Where rocks and woods o'erhang the turbid stream;
 There gathering triple force, rapid, and deep, 104
 It boils, and wheels, and foams, and thunders through.

NATURE! great parent! whose unceasing hand
 Rolls round the Seasons of the changeful year,
 How mighty, how majestic, are thy works!
 With what a pleasing dread they swell the soul!
 That sees astonish'd! and astonish'd sings! 110
 Ye too, ye winds! that now begin to blow,
 With boisterous sweep, I raise my voice to you.
 Where are your stores, ye powerful beings! say,
 Where your aërial magazines reserv'd,
 To swell the brooding terrors of the storm? 115
 In what far-distant region of the sky,
 Hush'd in deep silence, sleep you when 'tis calm?

WHEN from the palid sky the sun descends,
 With many a spot, that o'er his glaring orb
 Uncertain wanders, stain'd; red fiery streaks 120
 Begin to flush around. The reeling clouds
 Stagger with dizzy poize, as doubting yet
 Which master to obey: while rising slow,
 Blank, in the leaden-colour'd east, the moon
 Wears a wan circle round her blunted horns. 125
 Seen thro' the turbid fluctuating air,

The stars obtuse emit a shivering ray ;
 Or frequent seem to shoot athwart the gloom,
 And long behind them trail the whitening blaze.
 Snatch'd in short eddies, plays the wither'd leaf;
 And on the flood the dancing feather floats. 131
 With broadened nostrils to the sky upturn'd,
 The conscious heifer snuffs the stormy gale.
 Even as the matron, at her nightly task,
 With pensive labour draws the flaxen thread, 135
 The wasted taper and the crackling flame
 Foretell the blast. But chief the plummy race,
 The tenants of the sky, its changes speak.
 Retiring from the downs, where all day long 139
 They pick'd their scanty fare, a blackening train
 Of clamorous rooks thick-urge their weary flight,
 And seek the closing shelter of the grove.
 Assiduous, in his bower, the wailing owl
 Plies his sad song. The cormorant on high 144
 Wheels from the deep, and screams along the land.
 Loud shrieks the soaring hern ; and with wild wing
 The circling sea-fowl cleave the flaky clouds.
 Ocean, unequal press'd, with broken tide
 And blind commotion heaves ; while from the shore,
 Eat into caverns by the restless wave, 150
 And forest-rustling mountain, comes a voice,
 That solemn-sounding bids the world prepare.
 Then issues forth the storm with sudden burst,
 And hurls the whole precipitated air,

Down

W I N T E R.

177

Down, in a torrent. On the passive main 155

Descends th' ethereal force, and with strong gust
Turns from its bottom the discolour'd deep.

Thro' the black night that sits immense around,
Lash'd into foam, the fierce conflicting brine
Seems o'er a thousand raging waves to burn : 160

Mean-time the mountain-billows, to the clouds
In dreadful tumult swell'd, surge above surge,
Burst into chaos with tremendous roar,
And anchor'd navies from their stations drive,
Wild as the winds across the howling waste 165

Of mighty waters : now th'inflated wave
Straining they scale, and now impetuous shoot
Into the secret chambers of the deep,

The wintry *Baltick* thundering o'er their head.
Emerging thence again, before the breath 170

Of full exerted heaven they wing their course,

And dart on distant coasts ; if some sharp rock,

Or shoal insidious break not their career,

And in loose fragments fling them floating round.

Nor less at hand the loosened tempest reigns. 175

The mountain thunders ; and its sturdy sons

Stoop to the bottom of the rocks they shade.

Lone on the midnight steep, and all aghast,

The dark way-faring stranger breathless toils, 180

And, often falling, climbs against the blast.

Low waves the rooted forest, vex'd, and sheds

What of its tarnish'd honours yet remain ;
 Dash'd down, and scattered, by the tearing wind's
 Assiduous fury, its gigantic limbs.
 Thus struggling thro' the dissipated grove, 185
 The whirling tempest raves along the plain ;
 And on the cottage thatch'd, or lordly roof,
 Keen-fastening, shakes them to the solid base.
 Sleep frightened flies ; and round the rocking dome,
 For entrance eagre, howls the savage blast. 190
 Then too, they say, thro' all the burthen'd air,
 Long groans are heard, shrill sounds, and distant sighs,
 That, uttered by the Demon of the night,
 Warn the devoted wretch of woe and death. 194

Huge uproar lords it wide. The clouds commix'd
 With stars swift gliding sweep along the sky.
 All Nature reels. Till Nature's KING, who oft
 Amid tempestuous darkness dwells alone,
 And on the wings of the careering wind
 Walks dreadfully serene, commands a calm ; 200
 Then straight air sea and earth are hush'd at once.

As yet 'tis midnight deep. The weary clouds,
 Slow-meeting, mingle into solid gloom.
 Now, while the drowsy world lies lost in sleep,
 Let me associate with the serious *Night*, 205
 And *Contemplation* her sedate compeer ;

Let

Let me shake off th' intrusive cares of day,
And lay the meddling senses all aside.

WHERE now, ye lying vanities of life!
Ye ever-tempting ever-cheating train ! 210
Where are you now ? and what is your amount ?
Vexation, disappointment, and remorse.
Sad, sickening thought ! and yet deluded Man,
A scene of crude disjointed visions past,
And broken slumbers, rises still resolv'd, 215
With new-flush'd hopes, to run the giddy round.

FATHER of light and life ! thou GOOD SUPREME !
O teach me what is good ! teach me THYSELF !
Save me from folly, vanity, and vice,
From every low pursuit ! and feed my soul 220
With knowledge, conscious peace, and virtue pure,
Sacred, substantial, never fading bliss !

THE keener tempests come : and fuming dun
From all the livid east, or piercing north, 224
Thick clouds ascend ; in whose capacious womb
A vapoury deluge lies, to snow congeal'd.
Heavy they roll their fleecy world along ;
And the sky saddens with the gathered storm.
'Thro' the hush'd air the whitening shower descends,
At first thin-wavering ; 'till at last the flakes 230
Fall broad, and wide, and fast, dimming the day,

With a continual flow. The cherish'd fields
 Put on their winter-robe of purest white.
 'Tis brightness all ; save where the new snow melts
 Along the mazy current. Low, the woods 235
 Bow their hoar head ; and, ere the languid sun
 Faint from the west emits his evening ray,
 Earth's universal face, deep hid, and chill,
 Is one wild dazzling waste, that buries wide
 The works of Man. Drooping, the labourer-ox 240
 Stands cover'd o'er with snow, and then demands
 The fruit of all his toil. The fowls of heaven,
 Tam'd by the cruel season, croud around
 The winnowing store, and claim the little boon
 Which PROVIDENCE assigns them. One alone, 245
 The red-breast, sacred to the household gods,
 Wisely regardful of th' embroiling sky,
 In joyless fields, and thorny thickets, leaves
 His shivering mates, and pays to trusted Man
 His annual visit. Half-afraid, he first 250
 Against the window beats ; then, brisk, alights
 On the warm hearth ; then, hopping o'er the floor,
 Eyes all the smiling family askance,
 And pecks, and starts, and wonders where he is :
 'Till more familiar grown, the table-crums 255
 Attract his slender feet. The foodless wilds
 Pour forth their brown inhabitants. The hare,
 'Tho' timorous of heart, and hard beset
 By death in various forms, dark snares, and dogs,
 And

W I N T E R.

181

And more un pitying Men, the garden seeks, 260
 Urg'd on by fearless want. The bleating kind
 Eye the bleak heaven, and next the glistening earth,
 With looks of dumb despair ; then, sad dispers'd,
 Dig for the wither'd herb thro' heaps of snow. 264

Now, shepherds, to your helpless charge be kind,
 Baffle the raging year, and fill their pens
 With food at will ; lodge them below the storm,
 And watch them strict : for from the bellowing east,
 In this dire season, oft the whirlwind's wing
 Sweeps up the burthen of whole wintry plains 270
 At one wide waft, and o'er the hapless flocks,
 Hid in the hollow of two neighbouring hills,
 The billowy tempest whelms ; 'till, upward urg'd,
 The valley to a shining mountain swells,
 Tipt with a wreath, high-curling in the sky. 275

As thus the snows arise ; and foul, and fierce,
 All Winter drives along the darkened air ;
 In his own loose-revolving fields, the swain
 Disaster'd stands ; sees other hills ascend,
 Of unknown joyless brow ; and other scenes, 280
 Of horrid prospect, shag the trackless plain :
 Nor finds the river, nor the forest, hid
 Beneath the formless wild ; but wanders on
 From hill to dale, still more and more astray ;
 Impatient flouncing thro' the drifted heaps, 285
 Stung

Stung with the thoughts of home ; the thoughts of
home

Rush on his nerves, and call their vigour forth
In many a vain attempt. How sinks his soul !
What black despair, what horror fills his heart !
When for the dusky spot, which fancy feign'd 290
His tufted cottage rising thro' the snow,
He meets the roughness of the middle waste,
Far from the track, and blest abode of Man ;
While round him night resistless closes fast,
And every tempest, howling o'er his head, 295
Renders the savage wilderness more wild,
Then throng the busy shapes into his mind,
Of cover'd pits, unfathomably deep,
A dire descent ! beyond the power of frost,
Of faithless bogs ; of precipices huge 300
Smooth'd up with snow ; and what is land unknown,
What water, of the still unfrozen spring,
In the loose marsh or solitary lake,
Where the fresh fountain from the bottom boils. 304
These check his fearful steps ; and down he sinks
Beneath the shelter of the shapeless drift,
Thinking o'er all the bitterness of death,
Mix'd with the tender anguish Nature shoots
Thro' the wrung bosom of the dying Man,
His wife, his children, and his friends unseen. 310
In vain for him th' officious wife prepares
The fire fair-blazing, and the vestment warm ;
In vain his little children, peeping out

Into

Into the mingling storm, demand their fire,
With tears of artless innocence. Alas! 315
Nor wife, nor children, more shall he behold,
Nor friends, nor sacred home. On every nerve
The deadly Winter seizes; shuts up sense;
And, o'er his inmost vitals creeping cold,
Lays him along the snows, a stiffened corse, 320
Stretch'd out, and bleaching in the northern blast.

Ah little think the gay licentious proud,
Whom pleasure, power, and affluence surround;
They, who their thoughtless hours in giddy mirth,
And wanton, often cruel, riot waste; 325
Ah little think they, while they dance along,
How many feel, this very moment, death
And all the sad variety of pain.
How many sink in the devouring flood,
Or more devouring flame. How many bleed, 330
By shameful variance betwixt Man and Man.
How many pine in want, and dungeon glooms;
Shut from the common air, and common use
Of their own limbs. How many drink the cup
Of baleful grief, or eat the bitter bread 335
Of misery. Sore pierc'd by wintry winds,
How many shrink into the sordid hut
Of cheerless poverty. How many shake
With all the fiercer tortures of the mind,
Unbounded passion, madness, guilt, remorse; 340
Whence

Whence tumbled headlong from the height of life,
 They furnish matter for the tragic muse.
 Even in the vale, where wisdom loves to dwell,
 With friendship, peace, and contemplation join'd,
 How many, rack'd with honest passions, droop 345
 In deep retir'd distress. How many stand
 Around the death-bed of their dearest friends,
 And point the parting anguish. Thought fond Man
 Of these, and all the thousand nameless ills,
 That one incessant struggle render life, 350
 One scene of toil, of suffering, and of fate,
 Vice in his high career would stand appall'd,
 And heedless rambling Impulse learn to think;
 The conscious heart of charity would warm,
 And her wide wish benevolence dilate; 355
 The social tear would rise, the social sigh;
 And into clear perfection, gradual bliss,
 Refining still, the social passions work.

And here can I forget the generous * band,
 Who, touch'd with human woe, redressive search'd
 Into the horrors of the gloomy jail? 361
 Unpitied, and unheard, where misery moans;
 Where sickness pines; where thirst and hunger burn,
 And poor misfortune feels the lash of vice.
 While in the land of liberty, the land 365
 Whose every street and public meeting glow

* *The Jail Committee, in the Year 1729.*

With

With open freedom, little tyrants rag'd ;
 Snatch'd the lean morsel from the starving mouth ;
 Tore from cold wintry limbs the tatter'd weed ;
 Even robb'd them of the last of comforts, sleep ; 370
 The free-born BRITON to the dungeon chain'd,
 Or, as the lust of cruelty prevail'd,
 At pleasure mark'd him with inglorious stripes ;
 And crush'd out lives, by secret barbarous ways,
 That for their country would have toil'd, or bled. 375
 O great design ! if executed well,
 With patient care, and wisdom-temper'd zeal.
 Ye sons of mercy ! yet resume the search ;
 Drag forth the legal monsters into light,
 Wrench from their hands oppression's iron rod, 380
 And bid the cruel feel the pains they give.
 Much still untouch'd remains ; in this rank age,
 Much is the patriot's weeding hand requir'd.
 The toils of law, (what dark insidious Men
 Have cumbrous added to perplex the truth, 385
 And lengthen simple justice into trade)
 How glorious were the day ! that saw these broke,
 And every Man within the reach of right.

By wintry famine rous'd, from all the tract
 Of horrid mountains which the shining *Alps*, 390
 And wavy *Apennine*, and *Pyrenees*,
 Branch out stupendous into distant lands ;
 Cruel as death, and hungry as the grave !

Burning

Burning for blood ! bony, and ghaunt, and grim !
 Assembling wolves in raging troops descend ; 395
 And, pouring o'er the country, bear along,
 Keen as the north-wind sweeps the glossy snow.
 All is their prize: They fasten on the steed,
 Press him to earth, and pierce his mighty heart.
 Nor can the bull his awful front defend, 400
 Or shake the murdering savages away.
 Rapacious, at the mother's throat they fly,
 And tear the screaming infant from her breast.
 The godlike face of Man avails him nought. 404
 Even beauty, force divine ! at whose bright glance
 The generous lion stands in softened gaze,
 Here bleeds, a hapless undistinguish'd prey.
 But if, appriz'd of the severe attack,
 The country be shut up, lur'd by the scent,
 On church-yards drear (inhuman to relate !) 410
 The disappointed prowlers fall, and dig
 The shrouded body from the grave ; o'er which,
 Mix'd with foul shades, and frightened ghosts, they howl.

Among those hilly regions, where embrac'd
 In peaceful vales the happy *Grisons* dwell ; 415
 Oft, rushing sudden from the loaded cliffs,
 Mountains of snow their gathering terrors roll.
 From steep to steep, loud-thundering down they come,
 A wintry waste in dire commotion all ; 419
 And herds, and flocks, and travellers, and swains,
 And

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187

And sometimes whole brigades of marching troops,
Or hamlets sleeping in the dead of night,
Are deep beneath the smothering ruin whelm'd.

Now, all amid the rigours of the year,
In the wild depth of Winter, while without 425
The ceaseless winds blow ice, be my retreat,
Between the groaning forest and the shore,
Beat by the boundless multitude of waves,
A rural, shelter'd, solitary, scene ;
Where ruddy fire and beaming tapers join, 430
To cheer the gloom. There studious let me sit,
And hold high converse with the MIGHTY DEAD ;
Sages of ancient time, as gods rever'd,
As gods beneficent, who blest mankind
With arts, with arms, and humaniz'd a world. 435
Rous'd at th' inspiring thought, I throw aside
The long-liv'd volume ; and, deep-musing, hail
The sacred shades, that slowly-rising pass
Before my wondering eyes. First SOCRATES,
Who firmly stood in a corrupted state, 440
Against the rage of tyrants *single* stood,
Invincible ! calm Reason's holy law,
'That *Voice* of God within th' attentive mind,
Obeying, fearless, or in life, or death :
Great moral teacher ! *Wiseſt of Mankind* ! 445
SOLOON the next, who built his common-weal
On equity's wide baſe ; by *tender laws*

A

A lively people curbing, yet undamp'd
 Preserving still that quick peculiar fire,
 Whence in the laurel'd field of finer arts, 450
 And of bold freedom, they unequal'd shone,
 The pride of smiling GREECE, and human-kind.
 LYCURGUS then, who bow'd beneath the force
 Of strictest discipline, *severely wise*,
 All human passions. Following him, I see, 455
 As at *Thermopylae* he glorious fell,
 The firm * DEVOTED CHIEF, who prov'd by deeds
 The hardest lesson which the *other* taught.
 Then ARISTIDES lifts his honest front;
 Spotless of heart, to whom th' unflattering voice 460
 Of freedom gave the noblest name of *Just*;
 In pure majestic poverty rever'd;
 Who, even his glory to his country's weal
 Submitting, swell'd a haughty † *Rival's* fame.
 Rear'd by his care, of softer ray appears 465
 CIMON sweet-soul'd; whose genius, rising strong,
 Shook off the load of young debauch; abroad
 The scourge of *Persian* pride, at home the friend
 Of every worth and every splendid art;
 Modest, and simple, in the pomp of wealth. 470
 Then the last worthies of declining GREECE,
 Late-call'd to glory, in *unequal* times,
 Pensive, appear. The fair *Corinthian* boast,

* LEONIDAS.

† THEMISTOCLES.

TIMOLEON,

W I N T E R.

189

TIMOLEON, temper'd happy, mild, and firm,
 Who wept the *Brother* while the *Tyrant* bled. 475
 And, equal to the best, the * THEBAN PAIR,
 Whose virtues, in *heroic Concord* join'd,
 Their country rais'd to freedom, empire, fame.
 He too, with whom *Athenian* honour sunk,
 And left a mass of sordid lees behind, 480
 PHOCION the *Good*; in public life severe,
 To virtue still inexorably firm;
 But when, beneath his low illustrious roof,
 Sweet peace and happy wisdom smooch'd his brow,
 Not friendship softer was, nor love more kind. 485
 And he, the *last* of old LYCURGUS' sons,
 The generous victim to that vain attempt,
To save a rotten State, AGIS, who saw
 Even SPARTA's self to servile avarice sunk.
 The two *Achaian* heroes close the train. 490
 ARATUS, who a while relum'd the soul
 Of fondly lingering liberty in GREECE:
 And he her darling as her latest hope,
 The *gallant* PHILOPEMON; who to arms
 Turn'd the luxurious pomp he could not cure; 495
 Or toiling in his farm, a simple swain;
 Or, bold and skilful, thundering in the field.

OF rougher front, a mighty people come!
 A race of heroes! in those virtuous times 499

* PELOPIDAS, and EPAMINONDAS.

Which

Which knew no stain, save that with partial flame
 Their *dearest* country they *too fondly* lov'd.
 Her *better Founder* first, the light of ROME,
 NUMA, who soften'd her rapacious sons.
 SERVIUS the *King*, who laid the solid base
 On which o'er earth the *vast republic* spread. 505
 Then the great consuls venerable rise.
 The * PUBLIC FATHER who the *Private* quell'd,
 As on the dread tribunal sternly sad.
 He, whom his thankless country *could not* lose,
 CAMILLUS, only vengeful to her foes. 510
 FABRICIUS, scorner of all-conquering gold;
 And CINCINNATUS, awful from the plough.
 Thy † WILLING VICTIM, *Carthage*, bursting loose
 From all that pleading Nature could oppose,
 From a whole city's tears, by rigid faith 515
 Imperious call'd, and honour's dire command.
 SCIPIO, the *gentle chief*, humanely brave,
 Who soon the race of spotless glory ran,
 And, warm in youth, to the *Poetic Shade*
 With *Friendship* and *Philosophy* retir'd. 520
 TULLY, whose powerful eloquence a while
 Restrain'd the *rapid* fate of rushing ROME.
 Unconquer'd CATO, virtuous in *Extreme*.
 And thou, unhappy BRUTUS, kind of heart,
 Whose steady arm, by awful virtue urg'd, 525

* MARCUS JUNIUS BRUTUS.

† REGULUS.

Lifted

Lifted the *Roman Steel* against thy *Friend*.
 Thousands besides the tribute of a verse
 Demand ; but who can count the stars of heaven ?
 Who sing their influence on this lower world ?

BEHOLD, who yonder comes ! in sober state, 530
 Fair, mild, and strong, as is a vernal sun :
 'Tis *Phæbus* self, or else the *Mantuan Swain* !
 Great HOMER too appears, of daring wing,
 Parent of song ! and equal by his side, 534
 The BRITISH MUSE ; join'd hand in hand they walk,
 Darkling, full up the middle steep to fame.
 Nor absent are those shades, whose skilful touch
 Pathetic drew th' impassion'd heart, and charm'd
 Transported *Athens* with the MORAL SCENE : 539
 Nor those who, tuneful, wak'd th' enchanting LYRE.

FIRST of your kind ! Society divine !
 Still visit thus my nights, for you reserv'd,
 And mount my soaring soul to thoughts like yours.
 Silence, thou lonely power ! the door be thine ;
 See on the hallowed hour that none intrude, 545
 Save a few chosen friends, who sometimes deign
 To bless my humble roof, with sense refin'd,
 Learning digested well, exalted faith,
 Unstudy'd wit, and humour ever gay.
 Or from the Muses' hill will POPE descend, 550
 To raise the sacred hour, to bid it smile,
 And

And with the social spirit warm the heart :
 For tho' not sweeter his own HOMER sings,
 Yet is his life the more endearing song.

554

WHERE art thou, HAMMOND ? Thou the darling
 pride,

The friend and lover of the tuneful throng !
 Ah why, dear youth, in all the blooming prime
 Of vernal genius, where disclosing fast
 Each active worth, each manly virtue lay,
 Why wert thou ravish'd from our hope so soon ? 560
 What now avails that noble thirst of fame,
 Which stung thy fervent breast ? That treasur'd store
 Of knowledge, early gain'd ? That eager zeal
 To serve thy country, glowing in the band 564
 Of YOUTHFUL PATRIOTS, who sustain her name ?
 What now, alas ! that life-diffusing charm
 Of sprightly wit ? That rapture for the Muse,
 That heart of friendship, and that soul of joy,
 Which bade with softest sighs thy virtues smile ?
 Ah ! only shew'd, to check our fond pursuits, 570
 And teach our humbled hopes that life is vain !

THUS in some deep retirement would I pass
 The winter-glooms, with friends of pliant soul,
 Or blithe, or solemn, as the theme inspir'd : 574
 With them would search, if Nature's boundless frame
 Was call'd, late rising from the void of night,
 Or sprung *eternal* from th' ETERNAL MIND ;

Its

Its life, its laws, its progress, and its end.

Hence larger prospects of the beauteous whole
Would, gradual, open on our opening minds ; 580
And each diffusive harmony unite,
In full perfection, to th' astonish'd eye.

Then would we try to scan the *moral World*,
Which, tho' to us it seems embroil'd, moves on
In higher order ; fitted, and impell'd, 585

By WISDOM's finest hand, and issuing all
In *general Good*. The sage historic Muse
Should next conduct us thro' the deeps of time :

Shew us how empire grew, declin'd, and fell, 589

In scatter'd states ; what makes the nations smile,
Improves their soil, and gives them double suns ;

And why they pine beneath the brightest skies,

In Nature's richest lap. As thus we talk'd,

Our hearts would burn within us, would inhale

That portion of divinity, that ray 595

Of purest heaven, which lights the public soul

Of patriots, and of heroes. But if doom'd,

In powerless humble fortune, to repress

These ardent risings of the kindling soul ;

Then, even superior to ambition, we 600

Would learn the private virtues ; how to glide

Thro' shades and plains, along the smoothest stream

Of rural life : or snatch'd away by hope,

Thro' the dim spaces of futurity,

With earnest eye anticipate those scenes 605

Of happiness, and wonder; where the mind,
 In endless growth and infinite ascent,
 Rises from state to state, and world to world.
 But when with these the serious thought is foil'd,
 We, shifting for relief, would play the shapes 610
 Of frolic fancy; and incessant form
 Those rapid pictures, that assembled train
 Of fleet ideas, never join'd before,
 Whence lively *Wit* excites to gay surprize;
 Or folly-painting *Humour*, grave himself, 615
 Calls laughter forth, deep-shaking every nerve.

MEAN-TIME the village rouzes up the fire;
 While well attested, and as well believ'd,
 Heard solemn, goes the goblin-story round;
 Till superstitious horror creeps o'er all. 620
 Or, frequent in the sounding hall, they wake
 The rural gambol. Rustic mirth goes round;
 The simple joke that takes the shepherd's heart,
 Easily pleas'd; the long loud laugh, sincere; 624
 The kiss, snatch'd hasty from the side-long maid,
 On purpose guardless, or pretending sleep:
 The leap, the slap, the haul; and, shook to notes
 Of native music, the respondent dance.
 Thus jocund fleets with them the winter-night.

THE city swarms intense. The public haunt, 630
 Full of each theme, and warm with mixt discourse,
 Hums

W I N T E R.

195

Hums indistinct. The sons of riot flow
 Down the loose stream of false enchanted joy,
 To swift destruction. On the rankled soul
 The gaming fury falls ; and in one gulph 635
 Of total ruin, honour, virtue, peace,
 Friends, families, and fortune, headlong sink.
 Up-springs the dance along the lighted dome,
 Mix'd, and evolv'd, a thousand sprightly ways.
 The glittering court effuses every pomp ; 640
 The circle deepens : beam'd from gaudy robes,
 Tapers, and sparkling gems, and radiant eyes,
 A soft effulgence o'er the palace waves :
 While, a gay insect in *his* summer-shine, 644
 The fop, light-fluttering, spreads his mealy wings.

DREAD o'er the scene, the ghost of HAMLET stalks ;
 OTHELLO rages ; poor MONIMIA mourns ;
 And BELVIDERA pours her soul in love.
 Terror alarms the breast ; the comely tear
 Steals o'er the cheek : or else the COMIC MUSE 650
 Holds to the world a picture of itself,
 And raises fly the fair impartial laugh.
 Sometimes she lifts her strain, and paints the scenes
 Of beauteous life ; whate'er can deck mankind,
 Or charm the heart, in generous * BEVIL shew'd. 655

* A character in the CONSCIOUS LOVERS, written by Sir
 RICHARD STEELE.

O THOU, whose wisdom, solid yet refin'd,
 Whose patriot-virtues, and consummate skill
 To touch the finer springs that move the world,
 Join'd to whate'er the *Graces* can bestow,
 And all *Apollo's* animating fire, 660
 Give thee, with pleasing dignity, to shine
 At once the guardian, ornament, and joy,
 Of polish'd life ; permit the *Rural Muse*,
 O CHESTERFIELD, to grace with thee her song !
 Ere to the shades again she humbly flies, 665
 Indulge her fond ambition, in thy train,
 (For every *Muse* has in thy train a place)
 To mark thy various full-accomplish'd mind :
 To mark that spirit, which, with *British Scorn*,
 Rejects th' allurements of corrupted power ; 670
 That elegant politeness, which excels,
 Even in the judgment of presumptuous *France*,
 The boasted manners of her shining court ;
 That wit, the vivid energy of sense,
 The truth of Nature, which, with *Attic* point, 675
 And kind well-temper'd satire, smoothly keen,
 Steals through the soul, and without pain corrects.
 Or, rising thence with yet a brighter flame,
 O let me hail thee on some glorious day,
 When to the listening senate, ardent, croud 680
 BRITANNIA's sons to hear her pleaded cause.
 Then dress'd by thee, more amiably fair,

Truth

Truth the soft robe of mild persuasion wears :
 Thou to assenting reason giv'st again 684
 Her own enlightened thoughts; call'd from the heart,
 Th' obedient passions on thy voice attend ;
 And even reluctant party feels a while
 Thy gracious power : as thro' the varied maze
 Of eloquence, now smooth, now quick, now strong,
 Profound and clear, you roll the copious flood. 690

To thy lov'd haunt return, my happy Muse :
 For now, behold, the joyous winter-days,
 Frosty, succeed ; and thro' the blue serene,
 For sight too fine, th' ethereal nitre flies ;
 Killing infectious damps, and the spent air 695
 Storing afresh with elemental life.
 Close crouds the shining atmosphere ; and binds
 Our strengthened bodies in its cold embrace,
 Constringent ; feeds, and animates our blood ;
 Refines our spirits, thro' the new-strung nerves, 700
 In swifter fallies darting to the brain ;
 Where sits the soul, intense, collected, cool,
 Bright as the skies, and as the season keen.
 All Nature feels the renovating force
 Of Winter, only to the thoughtless eye 705
 In ruin seen. The frost-concocted glebe
 Draws in abundant vegetable soul,
 And gathers vigour for the coming year.
 A stronger glow sits on the lively cheek

Of ruddy fire : and luculent along 710
 The purer rivers flow ; their fullen deeps,
 Transparent, open to the shepherd's gaze,
 And murmur hoarser at the fixing frost.

WHAT art thou, frost ? and whence are thy keen
 stores

Deriv'd, thou secret all-invading power, 715
 Whom even th' illusive fluid cannot fly ?
 Is not thy potent energy, unseen,
 Myriads of little salts, or hook'd, or shap'd
 Like double wedges, and diffus'd immense
 Thro' water, earth, and ether ? Hence at eve, 720
 Steam'd eager from the red horizon round,
 With the fierce rage of Winter deep suffus'd,
 An icy gale, oft shifting, o'er the pool
 Breathes a blue film, and in its mid career
 Arrests the bickering stream. The loosened ice, 725
 Let down the flood, and half dissolv'd by day,
 Rustles no more ; but to the sedgy bank
 Fast grows, or gathers round the pointed stone,
 A crystal pavement, by the breath of heaven
 Cemented firm ; till, seiz'd from shore to shore, 730
 The whole imprison'd river grows below,
 Loud rings the frozen earth, and hard reflects
 A double noise ; while, at his evening watch,
 The village dog deters the nightly thief ;
 The heifer lows ; the distant water-fall 735
 Swells in the breeze ; and, with the hasty tread

Of

Of traveller, the hollow-sounding plain
 Shakes from afar. The full ethereal round,
 Infinite worlds disclosing to the view,
 Shines out intensely keen ; and, all one cope 740
 Of starry glitter, glows from pole to pole.
 From pole to pole the rigid influence falls,
 Thro' the still night, incessant, heavy, strong,
 And seizes Nature fast. It freezes on ;
 Till morn, late-rising o'er the drooping world, 745
 Lifts her pale eye unjoyous. Then appears
 The various labour of the silent night :
 Prone from the dripping eave, and dumb cascade,
 Whose idle torrents only seem to roar,
 The pendant icicle ; the frost-work fair, 750
 Where transient hues, and fancy'd figures rise ;
 Wide-spouted o'er the hill, the frozen-brook,
 A livid tract, cold-gleaming on the morn ;
 The forest bent beneath the plummy wave ;
 And by the frost refin'd the whiter snow, 755
 Incrusted hard, and sounding to the tread
 Of early shepherd, as he pensive seeks
 His pining flock, or from the mountain top,
 Pleas'd with the slippery surface, swift descends.

ON blithsome frolicks bent, the youthful swains,
 While every work of Man is laid at rest, 761
 Fond o'er the river croud, in various sport
 And revelry dissolv'd ; where mixing glad,

Happiest of all the train! the raptur'd boy
 Lashes the whirling top. Or, where the *Rhine* 765
 Branch'd out in many a long canal extends,
 From every province swarming, void of care,
Batavia rushes forth; and as they sweep,
 On founding skates, a thousand different ways,
 In circling poise, swift as the winds, along, 770
 The *then gay* land is maddened all to joy.
 Nor less the northern courts, wide o'er the snow,
 Pour a new pomp. Eager, on rapid sleds,
 Their vigorous youth in bold contention wheel 774
 The long-refounding course. Mean-time, to raise
 The manly strife, with highly blooming charms,
 Flush'd by the season, *Scandinavia's* dames,
 Or *Russia's* buxom daughters glow around.

PURE, quick, and sportful, is the wholesome day;
 But soon elaps'd. The horizontal sun, 780
 Broad o'er the south, hangs at his utmost noon:
 And, ineffectual, strikes the gelid cliff:
 His azure gloss the mountain still maintains,
 Nor feels the feeble touch. Perhaps the vale
 Relents a while to the reflected ray; 785
 Or from the forest falls the cluster'd snow,
 Myriads of gems, that in the waving gleam
 Gay-twinkle as they scatter. Thick around
 Thunders the sport of those, who with the gun,
 And dog impatient bounding at the shot, 790
 Worse

W I N T E R.

201

Worse than the season, desolate the fields;
And, adding to the ruins of the year,
Distress the footed or the feather'd game.

BUT what is this? Our infant Winter sinks,
Divested of his grandeur, should our eye 795
Astonish'd shoot into the *Frigid Zone*;
Where, for relentless months, continual night
Holds o'er the glittering waste her starry reign.

THERE, thro' the prison of unbounded wilds,
Barr'd by the hand of Nature from escape, 800
Wide-roads the *Russian* exile. Nought around
Strikes his sad eye, but deserts lost in snow;
And heavy-loaded groves; and solid floods,
That stretch, athwart the solitary vast,
Their icy horrors to the frozen main; 805
And cheerless towns far-distant, never blest'd,
Save when its annual course the caravan
Bends to the golden coast of rich * *Cathay*,
With news of human-kind. Yet there life glows;
Yet cherish'd there, beneath the shining waste, 810
The furry nations harbour: tipt with jet,
Fair ermines, spotless as the snows they press;
Sables of glossy black; and dark-embrown'd,
Or beauteous freckled with many a mingled hue,
Thousands besides, the costly pride of courts. 815

* The old name for *China*.

There, warm together press'd, the trooping deer
Sleep on the new fallen snows; and, scarce his head
Rais'd o'er the heapy wreath, the branching elk
Lies slumbering fullen in the white abyfs.

The ruthless hunter wants nor dogs nor toils, 820

Nor with the dread of sounding bows he drives
The fearful flying race; with ponderous clubs,
As weak against the mountain-heaps they push
Their beating breast in vain, and piteous bray,
He lays them quivering on th' ensanguin'd snows, 825
And with loud shouts rejoicing bears them home.

There thro' the piny forest half-absorpt,
Rough tenant of these shades, the shapeless bear,
With dangling ice all horrid, stalks forlorn;
Slow-pac'd, and sower as the storms increase, 830
He makes his bed beneath th' inclement drift,
And, with stern patience, scorning weak complaint,
Hardens his heart against assailing want.

WIDE o'er the spacious regions of the north,
That see *Boötes* urge his tardy wain, 835
A boisterous race, by frosty * *Caurus* pierc'd,
Who little pleasure know and fear no pain,
Prolific swarm. They once relum'd the flame
Of lost mankind in polish'd slavery sunk, 839
Drove martial † horde on horde, with dreadful sweep

* The north-west wind.

† The wandering *Scythian Clans*.

Resistless rushing o'er th' enfeebled south,
And gave the vanquish'd world another form.
Not such the sons of *Lapland* : wisely they
Despise th' insensate barbarous trade of war ;
They ask no more than simple Nature gives, 845
They love their mountains and enjoy their storms.
No false desires, no pride-created wants,
Disturb the peaceful current of their time ;
And thro' the restless ever-tortur'd maze
Of pleasure, or ambition, bid it rage. 850
Their rain-deer form their riches. These their tents,
Their robes, their beds, and all their homely wealth
Supply, their wholesome fare, and chearful cups.
Obsequious at their call, the docile tribe
Yield to the sled their necks, and whirl them swift
O'er hill and dale, heap'd in to one expanse 856
Of marbled snow, as far as eye can sweep
With a blue crust of ice unbounded glaz'd.
By dancing meteors then, that ceaseless shake
A waving blaze refracted o'er the heavens, 860
And vivid moons, and stars that keener play
With doubled lustre from the radiant waste,
Even in the depth of *Polar Night*, they find
A wondrous day : enough to light the chase,
Or guide their daring steps to *Finland-fairs*. 865
Wish'd Spring returns ; and from the hazy south,
While dim Aurora slowly moves before,
The welcome sun, just verging up at first,

By small degrees extends the swelling curve ;
 Till seen at last for gay rejoicing months, 870
 Still round and round, his spiral course he winds,
 And as he nearly dips his flaming orb,
 Wheels up again, and reascends the sky.
 In that glad season, from the lakes and floods,
 Where pure * *Niemi's* fairy mountains rise, 875
 And fring'd with roses † *Tenglio* rolls his stream,
 They draw the copious fry. With these, at eve,
 They chearful-loaded to their tents repair ;
 Where, all day long in useful cares employ'd,
 Their kind unblemish'd wives the fire prepare. 880
 Thrice happy race ! by poverty secur'd
 From legal plunder and rapacious power :
 In whom fell interest never yet has sown
 The seeds of vice : whose spotless swains ne'er knew

* *M. de Maupertuis*, in his book on the *Figure of the Earth*, after having described the beautiful Lake and Mountain of *Niemi* in *Lap'and*, says--“ From this height we had occasion several
 “ times to see those vapours rise from the Lake which the people of
 “ the country call *Haltios*, and which they deem to be the guardian
 “ Spirits of the Mountains. We had been frighted with stories of
 “ Bears that haunted this place, but saw none. It seem'd rather
 “ a place of resort for Fairies and Genii than Bears.”

† The same Author observes--“ I was surpriz'd to see upon the
 “ banks of this river, (the *Tenglio*) Roses of as lively a red as
 “ any that are in our gardens.”

W I N T E R, 205

Injurious deed, nor, blasted by the breath * 885
Of faithless love, their blooming daughters-woe,

STILL pressing on, beyond *Tornéa's* lake,
And *Hecla* flaming thro' a waste of snow,
And farthest *Greenland*, to the pole itself,
Where failing gradual life at length goes out, 890
The Muse expands her solitary flight ;
And, hovering o'er the wild stupendous scene,
Beholds new seas beneath * another sky.
Thron'd in his palace of cerulean ice,
Here WINTER holds his unrejoicing court ; 895
And thro' his airy hall the loud misrule
Of driving tempest is for ever heard :
Here the grim tyrant meditates his wrath ;
Here arms his winds with all-subduing frost ;
Moulds his fierce hail, and treasures up his snows, 900
With which he now oppresses half the globe.

THENCE winding eastward to the *Tartar's* coast,
She sweeps the howling margin of the main ;
Where undissolving, from the first of time,
Snows swell on snows amazing to the sky ; 905
And icy mountains high on mountains pil'd,
Seem to the shivering sailor from afar,
Shapeless and white, an atmosphere of clouds.
Projected huge, and horrid, o'er the surge,

* The other hemisphere.

Alps frown on Alps ; or rushing hideous down, 910
 As if old Chaos was again return'd,
 Wide-rend the deep, and shake the solid pole.
 Ocean itself no longer can resist
 The binding fury ; but, in all its rage
 Of tempest taken by the boundless frost, 915
 Is many a fathom to the bottom chain'd,
 And bid to roar no more : a bleak expanse,
 Shagg'd o'er with wavy rocks, cheerless, and void
 Of every life, that from the dreary months
 Flies conscious southward. Miserable they ! 920
 Who, here entangled in the gathering ice,
 Take their last look of the descending sun ;
 While, full of death, and fierce with tenfold frost,
 The long long night, incumbent o'er their heads,
 Falls horrible. Such was the * BRITON's fate, 925
 As with *first* prow, (what have not BRITONS dar'd !)
 He for the passage sought, attempted since
 So much in vain, and seeming to be shut
 By jealous Nature with eternal bars.
 In these fell regions, in *Arzina* caught, 930
 And to the stony deep his idle ship
 Immediate seal'd, he with his hapless crew,
 Each full exerted at his several task,
 Froze into statues ; to the cordage glued
 The sailor, and the pilot to the helm. 935

* Sir HUGH WILLOUGHBY, sent by QUEEN ELIZABETH
 to discover the north-east passage.

HARD

HARD by these shores, where scarce his freezing stream
 Rolls the wild *Oby*, live the last of Men;
 And half enliven'd by the distant sun,
 That rears and ripens Man, as well as plants,
 Here human Nature wears its rudest form. 940
 Deep from the piercing season sunk in caves,
 Here by dull fires, and with unjoyous cheer,
 They waste the tedious gloom. Immers'd in furs,
 Doze the gross race. Nor sprightly jest, nor song,
 Nor tenderness they know; nor aught of life, 945
 Beyond the kindred bears that stalk without.
 Till morn at length, her roses drooping all,
 Sheds a long twilight brightening o'er their fields,
 And calls the quiver'd savage to the chace.

WHAT cannot active government perform, 950
 New-moulding Man? Wide-stretching from these shores
 A people savage from remotest time,
 A huge neglected empire ONE VAST MIND,
 By HEAVEN inspir'd, from Gothic darkness call'd.
 Immortal PETER! first of monarchs! He 955
 His stubborn country tam'd, her rocks, her fens,
 Her floods, her seas, her ill-submitting sons;
 And while the fierce *Barbarian* he subdu'd,
 To more exalted soul he rais'd the *Man*.
 Ye shades of ancient heroes, ye who toil'd 960
 Thro' long successive ages to build up

A labouring plan of state, behold at once
 The wonder done ! behold the matchless prince !
 Who left his native throne, where reign'd till then
 A mighty shadow of unreal power ; 965
 Who greatly spurn'd the slothful pomp of courts ;
 And roaming every land, in every port
 His scepter laid aside, with glorious hand
 Unweary'd plying the mechanic tool,
 Gather'd the seeds of trade, of useful arts, 970
 Of civil wisdom, and of martial skill.
 Charg'd with the stores of *Europe* home he goes !
 Then cities rise amid th' illumin'd waste ;
 O'er joyless desarts smiles the rural reign ;
 Far-distant flood to flood is social join'd ; 975
 Th' astonish'd *Euxine* hears the *Baltic* roar ;
 Proud navies ride on seas that never foam'd
 With daring keel before ; and armies stretch
 Each way their dazzling files, repressing here
 The frantic *Alexander* of the north, 980
 And awing there stern *Othman's* shrinking sons.
Sloth flies the land, and *Ignorance*, and *Vice*,
 Of old dishonour proud : it glows around,
 Taught by the ROYAL HAND that rous'd the whole,
 One scene of arts, of arms, of rising trade : 985
 For what his wisdom plann'd, and power enforc'd,
 More potent still, his great *Example* shew'd.

MUTTERING,

MUTTERING, the winds at eve, with blunted point,
Blow hollow-blustering from the south. Subdu'd,
The frost resolves into a trickling thaw. 990
Spotted the mountains shine ; loose fleet descends,
And floods the country round. The rivers swell,
Of bonds impatient. Sudden from the hills,
O'er rocks and woods, in broad brown cataracts,
A thousand snow-fed torrents shoot at once ; 995
And, where they rush, the wide-resounding plain
Is left one slimy waste. Those fullen seas,
That wash'd th' ungenial pole, will rest no more
Beneath the shackles of the mighty north ;
But, rousing all their waves, resistless heave— 1000
And hark ! the lengthening roar continuous runs
Athwart the rifted deep : at once it bursts,
And piles a thousand mountains to the clouds.
Ill fares the bark with trembling wretches charg'd,
That, tost amid the floating fragments, moors 1005
Beneath the shelter of an icy isle,
While night o'erwhelms the sea, and horror looks
More horrible. Can human force endure
Th' assembled mischiefs that besiege them round ?
Heart-gnawing hunger, fainting weariness, 1010
The roar of winds and waves, the crush of ice,
Now ceasing, now renew'd with louder rage,
And in dire echoes bellowing round the main.
More to embroil the deep, Leviathan

And

And his unwieldy train, in dreadful sport, 1015
 Tempest the loosen'd brine, while thro' the gloom,
 Far, from the bleak inhospitable shore,
 Loading the winds, is heard the hungry howl
 Of famish'd monsters, there awaiting wrecks.
 Yet PROVIDENCE, that *ever-waking* eye, 1020
 Looks down with pity on the feeble toil
 Of mortals lost to hope, and lights them safe,
 Thro' all his dreary labyrinth of fate.

'Tis done!--dread WINTER spreads his latest glooms,
 And reigns tremendous o'er the conquer'd year. 1025
 How dead the vegetable kingdom lies!
 How dumb the tuneful! horror wide extends
 His desolate domain. Behold, fond Man!
 See here thy pictur'd life, pass some few years,
 Thy flowering Spring, thy Summer's ardent strength,
 Thy sober Autumn fading into age, 1031
 And pale concluding Winter comes at last,
 And shuts the scene. Ah! whither now are fled
 Those dreams of greatness? those unsolid hopes
 Of happiness? those longings after fame? 1035
 Those restless cares? those busy bustling days?
 Those gay-spent, festive nights? those veering thoughts
 Lost between good and ill, that shar'd thy life?
 All now are vanish'd! VIRTUE sole survives,
 Immortal never-failing friend of Man, 1040
 His guide to happiness on high.—And see!
 'Tis

'Tis come, the glorious morn ! the second birth
 Of heaven, and earth ! awakening Nature hears
 The *new creating word*, and starts to life,
 In every heightened form, from pain and death 1045
 For ever free. *The great eternal scheme*
 Involving all, and in a *perfect whole*
 Uniting, as the prospect wider spreads,
 To reason's eye refin'd clears up apace.
 Ye vainly wise ! ye blind presumptuous ! now, 1050
 Confounded in the dust, adore that POWER,
 And WISDOM oft arraign'd : see now the cause,
 Why unassuming worth in secret liv'd,
 And dy'd, neglected : why the good Man's share
 In life was gall and bitterness of soul : 1055
 Why the lone widow, and her orphans pin'd,
 In starving solitude ; while luxury,
 In palaces, lay straining her low thought,
 To form unreal wants : why heaven-born truth,
 And moderation fair, wore the red marks 1060
 Of superstition's scourge : why licens'd pain,
 That cruel spoiler, that embosom'd foe,
 Imbitter'd all our blifs. Ye good distressed !
 Ye noble few ! who here unbending stand
 Beneath life's pressure, yet bear up a while, 1065
 And what your bounded view, which only saw
 A little part, deem'd Evil is no more :
 The storms of WINTRY TIME will quickly pass,
 And one unbounded SPRING encircle all.

A HYMN.

A

H Y M N.

THESE, as they change, ALMIGHTY FATHER,
these,

Are but the *varied* God. The rolling year
Is full of Thee. Forth in the pleasing Spring
THY beauty walks, THY tenderness and love.
Wide flush the fields ; the softening air is balm ; 5
Echo the mountains round ; the forest smiles ;
And every sense, and every heart is joy.
Then comes THY glory in the Summer-months,
With light and heat refulgent. Then THY sun
Shoots full perfection thro' the swelling year : 10
And oft THY voice in dreadful thunder speaks ;
And oft at dawn, deep noon, or falling eve,
By brooks and groves, in hollow-whispering gales.
THY bounty shines in Autumn unconfin'd,
And spreads a common feast for all that lives. 15
In Winter awful THOU ! with clouds and storms
Around THEE thrown, tempest o'er tempest roll'd,
Majestic

Majestic darkness ! on the whirlwind's wing,
 Riding sublime, THOU bidst the world adore,
 And humblest Nature with THY northern blast. 20

MYSTERIOUS round ! what skill, what force divine,
 Deep-felt, in these appear ! a simple train,
 Yet so delightful mix'd, with such kind art,
 Such beauty and beneficence combin'd ;
 Shade, unperceiv'd, so softening into shade ; 25
 And all so forming an harmonious whole ;
 That, as they still succeed, they ravish still.
 But wandering oft, with brute unconscious gaze,
 Man marks not THEE, marks not the mighty hand,
That, ever-busy, wheels the silent spheres ; 30
 Works in the secret deep ; shoots, steaming, thence
 The fair profusion that o'erspreads the Spring :
 Flings from the sun direct the flaming day ;
 Feeds every creature ; hurls the tempest forth ;
 And, as on earth this grateful change revolves, 35
 With transport touches all the springs of life.

NATURE, attend ! join every living soul,
 Beneath the spacious temple of the sky,
 In adoration join ; and, ardent, raise
 One general song ! To HIM, ye vocal gales, 40
 Breathe soft, whose SPIRIT in your freshness breathes :
 Oh talk of HIM in solitary glooms !
 Where, o'er the rock, the scarcely waving pine

Fills

Fills the brown shade with a religious awe.
 And ye, whose bolder note is heard afar, 45
 Who shake th' astonish'd world, lift high to heaven
 Th' impetuous song, and say from w' om you rage.
 His praise, ye brooks, attune, ye trembling rills;
 And let me catch it as I muse along.
 Ye headlong torrents, rapid, and profound; 50
 Ye softer floods, that lead the humid maze
 Along the vale; and thou, majestic main,
 A secret world of wonders in thyself,
 Sound His stupendous praise; whose greater voice
 Or bids you roar, or bids your roarings fall. 55
 Soft-roll your incense, herbs, and fruits, and flowers,
 In mingled clouds to Him; whose sun exalts,
 Whose breath perfumes you, and whose pencil paints.
 Ye forests bend, ye harvests wave, to Him;
 Breathe your still song into the reaper's heart, 60
 As home he goes beneath the joyous moon.
 Ye that keep watch in heaven, as earth asleep
 Unconscious lies, effuse your mildest beams,
 Ye constellations, while your angels strike,
 Amid the spangled sky, the silver lyre. 65
 Great source of day! best image here below
 Of thy Creator, ever pouring wide,
 From world to world, the vital ocean round,
 On Nature write with every beam His praise.
 The thunder rolls: be hush'd the prostrate world; 70
 While cloud to cloud returns the solemn hymn.

Bleat

Bleat out afresh, ye hills : ye mossy rocks,
Retain the found : the broad responsive lowe,
Ye valleys, raise ; for the GREAT SHEPHERD reigns ;
And his *unsuffering* kingdom yet will come. 75
Ye woodlands all, awake : a boundless song
Burst from the groves ! and when the restless day,
Expiring, lays the warbling world asleep,
Sweetest of birds ! sweet Philomela, charm
The listening shades, and teach the night HIS praise. 80
Ye chief, for whom the whole creation smiles ;
At once the head, the heart, and tongue of all,
Crown the great hymn ! in swarming cities vast,
Assembled men, to the deep organ join
The long-resounding voice, oft-breaking clear, 85
At solemn pauses, thro' the swelling base ;
And, as each mingling flame increases each,
In one united ardor rise to heaven.
Or if you rather chuse the rural shade,
And find a fane in every sacred grove ; 90
There let the shepherd's flute, the virgin's lay,
The prompting seraph, and the poet's lyre,
Still sing the GOD OF SEASONS, as they roll.
For me, when I forget the darling theme,
Whether the blossom blows, the summer-ray 95
Rustles the plain, *inspiring* Autumn gleams ;
Or Winter rises in the blackening east ;
Be my tongue mute, may fancy paint no more,
And, dead to joy, forget my heart to beat !

SHOULD

SHOULD fate command me to the farthest verge
 Of the green earth, to distant barbarous climes, 101
 Rivers unknown to song ; where first the sun
 Gilds *Indian* mountains, or his setting beam
 Flames on th' *Atlantic* isles ; 'tis nought to me :
 Since GOD is ever present, ever felt, 105
 In the void waste as in the city full ;
 And where HE vital spreads there must be joy.
 When even at last the solemn hour shall come,
 And wing my mystic flight to future worlds,
 I chearful will obey ; there, with new powers, 110
 Will rising wonders sing : I cannot go
 Where UNIVERSAL LOVE not smiles around,
 Sustaining all yon orbs, and all their sons ;
 From *seeming Evil* still educing *Good*,
 And *Better* thence again, and *Better* still, 115
 In infinite progression.——But I lose
 Myself in HIM, in LIGHT INEFFABLE !
 Come then, expressive silence, muse HIS praise.

THE END.

William Alexander